



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Russian Foreign Minister at Chemical Weapons Meeting

Convention Signing Previewed

PM1301120993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 3

[Yuriy Kovalenko report: "The 'Poor Man's Nuclear Bomb' Will Be Disarmed: Preparing To Sign the Convention on the Banning of Chemical Weapons in Paris"]

[Text] Paris—The field of disarmament is extremely productive in the first few days of 1993. After the nuclear disarmament envisaged by the START II treaty, it is now the turn of the dismantling of chemical weapons which, like bacteriological weapons, are sometimes called the "poor man's nuclear bomb."

Such weapons should not exist on our planet at the beginning of the third millennium—that is the aim of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Utilization of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. From 13 through 15 January at UNESCO headquarters in Paris this document, dubbed "historic" in the West, will be signed by around 115 states. The majority of them will sign at foreign minister level. (While in Paris Andrey Kozyrev will also hold talks with the heads of the foreign policy departments of more than 10 countries including Japan, France, and the United States.)

For the first time in mankind's history, the Quai d'Orsay—the French Foreign Ministry—stresses, a whole category of weapons of mass destruction will be scrapped and thus an extraordinarily important step will be taken toward strengthening international security.

The convention is an effective instrument of containment aimed with the aid of an innovative system of verification against illegal chemical weapons programs. This verification, which will be carried out by an international group of experts, applies not only to the whole chemical industry and the weapons destruction process but also to the inspection of industrial facilities. Any state can demand it if it suspects that there are chemical weapons or their components on the territory of another state. The verification is based on the "revolutionary" principle known as "anywhere, any time, with no right of refusal," Western experts stress.

At present three countries—the United States, Russia, and Iraq—possess chemical weapons. Libya, the DPRK, and some other countries are occasionally included in the "chemical club."

There is still no complete clarity on whether Tripoli will sign the convention. By all accounts a DPRK delegation will not be coming to Paris. The question of the Arab countries' participation has not been decided. The question is currently being debated by the Arab League in Cairo. These states are asking themselves: Why should we affiliate ourselves with a convention which envisages

the destruction of a whole type of weapons of mass destruction, whereas Israel has not signed the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, weapons which it possibly possesses?

The convention goes into force after it has been ratified by 65 states. But some countries—which ones precisely will become clear in the next few days—are not going to sign it. Sanctions will not be applied against them. However, the convention does provide measures which one way or another should "nudge" such states toward affiliation. For example, an embargo could be applied against them.

One principle of the convention, as specialists explain, is that the destruction of the chemical weapons will be paid for by the country which possesses them. The United States has the latest technology for that purpose enabling it to completely destroy these weapons at high temperatures. The Russians, as French experts claim, have a less refined technology: First a shell will be emptied of its chemicals, then they will be destroyed.

The United States has already virtually completed the construction of two chemical weapons destruction plants. As for Russia, its experimental plant in Chapayevsk intended for that purpose was closed down under pressure from the country's "greens." Consequently, Moscow is now busy looking for a new site for the construction of such an enterprise.

It must hurry, they believe in Paris, if it wants to observe the 10-year deadline stipulated by the convention (15 years in exceptional circumstances) for the destruction of chemical weapons after the convention's enactment. According to the latest reports, Russia is being offered assistance in this sphere by the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and other countries.

'Significant Headway' Noted

LD1301064893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0609 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev, Andrey Krasnoshchekov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Paris January 13 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived here from Helsinki on Tuesday night [12 January]. He will take part in the ceremony of signing the convention on banning the development, manufacturing, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, as well as on their destruction, which opens today at the UNESCO headquarters.

Speaking before journalists at the Paris airport, Kozyrev pointed out that Russia had worked hard and long for the signing of the convention. One of the important factors that made it possible to sign the document this year is the stand that we assumed on biological and chemical weapons, he continued. Serious changes have really taken place in our approach to the crucial problems of today.

In the opinion of Kozyrev, now, after the signing of the Russian-American START-2 treaty and on the eve of the signing of the convention on banning chemical weapons, it is possible to say that significant headway has been achieved on these two key problems facing the world.

Although the complete liquidation of nuclear weapons cannot be discussed now (it would be unrealistic in the current situation), at least the nuclear threat no longer exists in the form in which we knew it over the past thirty years, and the threat of the use of chemical weapons has been eliminated altogether.

This does not mean, Kozyrev continued, that now we may slacken our effort. We are facing a number of new problems, whose solution calls for our equally energetic approach and as intensive international cooperation, as during the working out of the convention, the Russian foreign minister stressed.

Kozyrev Answers Questions

PM1301163593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by Yuriy Kovalenko: "A Chemical Weapons Convention Is Easier To Sign Than To Implement. Some Experts Doubt Whether the Document Will Completely Eliminate the Danger of a Gas Attack"]

[Excerpt] Paris—On Wednesday [13 January], at 1600 hours, in the Paris headquarters of UNESCO, French President Francois Mitterrand opened the ceremony to sign the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Storage, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction.

As we reported before, this document, which was elaborated under UN auspices and which envisages for the first time ever the total elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, will be signed by around 115 states in the space of three days.

"We have been working toward this convention for a long time," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said, answering our correspondent's question on his arrival at Orly Airport, "and, if you recall, the last five years or so used to begin with words to the effect that this year would be the year when the convention will be signed. The fact that it is finally being signed is, in particular, the result of the bold stance we adopted on biological weapons and our honest steps on chemical weapons."

The signing of the convention is closely associated with the START treaty, A. Kozyrev went on to say. Crucial advances have now been made on two major problems. Whereas it is unrealistic to expect complete disarmament in the foreseeable future, the START II Treaty does significantly mitigate the problem of the nuclear threat, as it has existed for the past 30 years. The chemical threat is virtually removed.

But a whole series of new problems arises, the Russian minister said, which demand just as much commitment on our part and the same kind of international cooperation as when the convention was being prepared. First, there is its implementation—that is, the destruction of chemical weapons. Second, the universalization of the convention—all states putting their name to it. What comes to the forefront, really, is the issue of nonproliferation of chemical and nuclear weapons.

The chemical weapons are becoming obsolete and they are becoming dangerous, Andrey Kozyrev pointed out. Either we disarm unilaterally, by eliminating them and spending money on that, or we do it in conjunction with the United States and other powers. So we now have the best-case scenario—we will engage in disarmament, but together with the others. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev Addresses Convention

LD1301194293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev, Andrey Krasnoschykov, and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Paris January 13 TASS—"The beginning of 1993 was marked by "seizing two bastilles"—the signed convention and the Moscow Start-2 Treaty are evidence of unprecedented possibilities which have opened in the world for forming democratic and safe peace," said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev addressing participants at a ceremony of signing a convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and its destruction.

The Russian minister said that the signed convention was a result of efforts made by more than one generation. For the first time the humanity has managed to reach an agreement not only on excluding chemical weapons from the means of waging wars, but on the elimination of its stockpiles. The convention is an outstanding achievement of multilateral diplomacy, laying a basis for openness, control and cooperation in the field of security on a global scale, Kozyrev said.

He stressed that the progress made in the liquidation of nuclear, missile and chemical weapons demands strengthening the regime of their non-proliferation and adds more responsibility to those countries which had not joined this regime before.

In this connection mentioned the achievement of the universalization of the membership in the convention and the need for international cooperation both in the elimination of chemical weapons and in the conversion of industries producing them as one of the most important tasks.

After the speech Kozyrev signed the convention on behalf of the Russian Federation banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and its elimination.

Georgian Foreign Minister at Chemical Weapons Convention

LD1201130093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111
GMT 12 Jan 93

[By SAKINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi January 12 TASS—Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze flew to Paris on Tuesday to sign the convention on chemical weapons on January 13.

"The signature, which we shall attach to the convention, shows that Georgia is fulfilling its promises to join the international treaties on disarmament," Chikvaidze told the SAKINFORM news service. "Our country is ready to give foreign experts the right to control the construction on Georgian territory of chemical plants designed to meet the needs of our industry and agriculture. It is also ready to constantly cooperate with them."

START II Ratification on Russian Supreme Soviet Agenda

OW1301152193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508
GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An employee of the Russian Foreign Ministry responsible for the contacts with the parliament, declared to INTERFAX that the ratification of the Russian-American START-2 Treaty will probably be included in the agenda of the Russian Supreme Soviet session scheduled for next week.

President Boris Yeltsin is supposed to present the Treaty to the parliamentarians. The American party made it clear that President Bush's administration, whose duties will expire on January 20, will present the document to the US Congress.

"For a number of reasons we plan 'to synchronize' the ratification process of the START-2 Treaty in the Russian parliament and the US Congress," said the employee.

Russian Defense Chief Outlines START II Benefits

PM1401101393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 2

[Article by Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff and Russian first deputy defense minister: "Nuclear Arsenal: Stockpiles Disappearing"—first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] If the Russo-U.S. START II Treaty is implemented, each side's nuclear potential will be reduced by two-thirds. The world's nuclear arsenals will be devastated. What is the military's attitude to this?

At the request of our correspondent Roman Zadunay-skiy, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff and Russian first deputy defense minister, voiced his opinion of the treaty.

To start with I want to particularly emphasize the fact that when the document was being drawn up a very high degree of coordination was achieved between the Defense Ministry and the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry. Thanks to this both departments were able to elaborate positions that ensure that the new, fundamental cuts in nuclear arms correspond to the real changes in the military-political situation and strengthen Russia's security. When assessing START II it is extremely important to be guided not by outbursts of emotion or hasty conclusions about our allegedly unjustified concessions to the United States, but by sober judgment, a precise knowledge of the state of affairs in the sphere of nuclear armaments, and by the results of repeated calculations and forecasts.

According to preliminary calculations, each side's nuclear potential will be reduced by two-thirds. This will be combined with qualitative transformations in the structure of the U.S. and Russian strategic forces, which will lead to a considerable strengthening of strategic stability. It is the great success of the treaty that, as a result of withdrawing MIRVed ICBM's from the sides' arsenals and ending their production, the sides are removing the dangerous temptation of a preemptive first strike. Moreover, these missiles would have come to the end of their useful life in the next 10-15 years and would have had to be unilaterally destroyed anyway.

Opponents of the treaty see its implementation as signifying the "loss of the foundation of our nuclear power"—ground-launched heavy missiles. But this is not the case: The 10-warhead heavy missiles will be replaced by new single-warhead systems, and this is seen by both sides as a stabilizing factor. Moreover, the number of warheads on each SS-19 ICBM will be reduced, which will make it possible to cut the number of these missiles in service with the Russian Army to 105. Although at first the Americans strictly insisted that all heavy ICBM silos be completely destroyed, the Russian side succeeded in making provision in the treaty for the possible use of up to 90 silos for the deployment of new single-warhead ICBM's, once the silos have been converted to rule out the siting and launch of the old heavy missiles. By using the old silos we will save around 2 billion rubles (in 1992 prices).

There will also be substantive changes to the foundation of U.S. nuclear power—the strategic air forces. The United States has made a real, rather than theoretical (as was the case in START I) provision [zacet] for the nuclear weapons carried by heavy bombers. Thus, any possibility of bypassing the provisions of the new treaty are ruled out. Under START I it was agreed that U.S. heavy bombers equipped with long-range cruise missiles would be counted as carrying 10 warheads, although

technically the aircraft can carry up to 25 missiles. As a result, under START I the United States, which has always had an advantage in strategic aviation, could potentially use its heavy bombers to increase the real number of nuclear weapons by 2,000-2,500 units above the 6,000 stipulated by the treaty. This possibility is now ruled out.

The United States also agreed to a major reduction in the nuclear warheads in the naval component of its strategic nuclear triad to two-thirds of the existing level and to half the level planned under START I. And this applies to the most modern Trident 2 sea-launched missiles.

Under START II the number of warheads carried by heavy bombers is limited to a maximum of 850-1,250 and the United States will have to cut its air-launched nuclear weapons. At the same time, Russia and the United States, by moving to a low level of nuclear arms, are entitled to expect that the other nuclear powers—Britain, France, and China—will join the negotiating process in the foreseeable future. The implementation of radical strategic offensive weapons cuts in the Russian Armed Forces is based on a consideration of the sides' commitments under the existing ABM Treaty, which strictly limits the deployment of ABM systems designed to intercept incoming missiles and therefore remains the basis for maintaining nuclear stability.

The planned cuts will be far less costly for Russia than maintaining the combat readiness of nuclear systems at their current level until the end of their design [garantiyniy] life. Moreover, the spending involved in physically destroying the arms will be considerably reduced through cooperation with the United States in the development [razrabotka] and use of relevant technologies. The United States has pledged to provide direct financial assistance to Russia in eliminating strategic offensive weapons while taking account of environmental safety.

With regard to Ukraine's position on this issue, it should be noted that, in signing the START II Treaty both parties were working on the basis that it would come into force once Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan had ratified the START I Treaty and carried out their commitment to subscribe to the treaty as nonnuclear states.

A draft agreement on the status and position of the strategic forces deployed on Ukrainian territory has been sent to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. It raises the point that nuclear weapons cannot be "nobody's" and that their state ownership should be clear-cut. The reality today is that Ukraine is physically incapable of guaranteeing the upkeep, servicing, and regulatory work needed to maintain a high level of reliability for the nuclear warheads. We do not want our neighbor, a fraternal people, to find itself with the raw material for new "Chernobyls."

So far Ukraine's position on START II gives no grounds for optimism.

A no less difficult "stumbling block" for START II is the opposition to the treaty in the Russian parliament. Groups, forces, and parties may, for purely political purposes, seek out some detrimental [ushcherbnyy] points of the treaty in an attempt to increase their political clout and reduce that of their opponents.

The START II Treaty strengthens Russia's security at what is for the country a difficult time of profound internal transformations, and it fully reflects the changes in the military-political situation.

The other fundamental point is that this document, signed in Moscow by the two countries' leaders, makes a major contribution to solving the problem of real nuclear disarmament and, at the same time, lays the foundation for constructive cooperation in this strategic direction with the new U.S. Administration, guaranteeing the continuity that is so vital on these issues.

In a broad sense it is a historic document for a new era that opens up immense opportunities for solving the most difficult problems through collaboration and cooperation. It reflects the reality of the partnership relations of both Russia and the United States, the high level of trust between them, and the common goals that both countries share in strengthening mutual and worldwide security.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Views START II

PM1301114593 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by G. Berdennikov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, under general heading "Lightning Round With Warheads": "START II: Treaty for 21st Century"]

[Text] Russia and the United States are ready to enter the new millenium, leaving on its threshold a large proportion of their nuclear weapons.

In accordance with the Treaty on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Weapons (START II) signed by the two countries' presidents, by 1 January 2003 the sides will reduce the total number of their nuclear warheads to 3,000-3,500 units or to an even lower level as determined by each side. It is a case of an unprecedentedly far-reaching reduction of the sides' strategic offensive arms—by approximately two thirds of existing levels.

Such a large-scale reduction of warheads is combined in the treaty with profound qualitative transformations in the structure of Russian and U.S. strategic forces, which will lead to a substantial consolidation of strategic stability. That will be achieved in particular as a result of the removal of MIRVed ICBM's from the sides' arsenals, their destruction, and the halting of their production. These systems, which appeared in the seventies, made it possible to bypass quantitative restrictions imposed on

nuclear weapons delivery vehicles by the United States and the Soviet Union in previous agreements. With the emergence of missiles capable of carrying not one but several warheads each, a serious destabilizing factor was introduced to the nuclear balance between the two powers, since in nuclear planning there was a temptation to use the first strike option in the event of a crisis. Today, having agreed to abolish MIRVed ICBM's completely, the sides seem to be turning the arms race back, eliminating that dangerous temptation.

The agreement on the abolition of MIRVed ICBM's also has a strictly practical meaning for Russia. The point is that the service life of our arsenal of these missiles expires within the next 10-15 years and they would in any case have to be destroyed unilaterally. Neither the building of new missiles (and their production base is in Ukraine) nor their modernization can, of course, be considered acceptable solutions under the conditions of the implementation of far-reaching economic reforms. Hence the obvious expediency of "placing" these inevitable reductions in the context of the Russian-U.S. accord and thus securing countersteps by our U.S. partners in destroying a substantial part of their nuclear potential.

What I have said in no way means that Russia is being deprived of the basis of its nuclear might, of its ground-based nuclear weapons. The place of the "heavy missiles" with 10 warheads each will be taken by new systems equipped with just one warhead, which is regarded by both sides as a stabilizing factor. In addition the number of warheads on the SS-19 ICBM will be reduced to one, which will make it possible to retain up to 105 of these missiles.

The possibility stipulated by the treaty of using up to 90 of the "heavy missiles" launch silos for the deployment of new single-warhead systems after these silos have been adapted to preclude the former heavy missiles being loaded into them and launched is of exceptional importance to us. It should be said that this decision which is to our advantage was not easily achieved, since the U.S. side toughly insisted on the complete physical destruction of all the "heavy missiles" launch silos. During the talks between A. Kozyrev, P. Grachev, and U.S. Secretary of State L. Eagleburger on the eve of the summit, the Americans met us halfway. As a result we shall save over 1 billion rubles in 1991 prices by using the old silos.

If the basis of Russia's nuclear power consists of ground-launched ICBM's, for America it consists of nuclear missiles on submarines and of strategic aircraft. Here too there will be substantial changes. Under the treaty the U.S. side has agreed to major reduction of nuclear warheads on the naval component of its strategic triad—by a factor of three compared to the present level and a factor of two compared to the level it had planned in accordance with the START I Treaty. This includes the most sophisticated "Trident-2" naval missiles.

As for strategic aircraft, the United States eventually undertook a real reduction (and not a hypothetical reduction, as was the case in the START I Treaty) of nuclear warheads on heavy bombers. Thus any potential for bypassing the new treaty is eliminated. Under the START I Treaty it was agreed that the U.S. heavy bombers equipped for long-range nuclear cruise missiles would be allowed 10 warheads, although technically the aircraft can carry up to 20 of these missiles. As a result the United States, which has always had the advantage in strategic aircraft, could potentially under the START I Treaty use its heavy bombers to increase the real number of its nuclear warheads by 2,000-2,500 over and above the 6,000 stipulated by that treaty. Now this opportunity has disappeared.

The successful completion of the strenuous work on the treaty is rightly linked in the world with the desire of the Russian and U.S. leaders to really demonstrate the qualitatively new mutual relations in the nature of a partnership between the two powers, to consider mutual concerns as much as possible, and to radically reduce the role of the nuclear factor.

As for the influence of the far-reaching reductions of nuclear potentials on our security, then the number of warheads stipulated by the treaty, although it is drastically reduced, is still more than enough for effective deterrence. At the same time, in embarking on this low level of nuclear arms, Russia and the United States have the right to count on other nuclear powers—Britain, France, and China—joining the negotiations process in the foreseeable future.

It is also important to stress that Russia's implementation of radical strategic offensive arms reductions is based—and that is reflected in the new treaty—on a consideration of the sides' commitments under the existing ABM treaty, which strictly limits the possibility of deploying ABM systems designed to destroy offensive missiles and therefore remains the basis for maintaining strategic stability.

Having signed the START II Treaty both sides proceed from the premise that it will enter into force after Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine ratify the START I Treaty and fulfill their commitments on accession to the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons as nonnuclear states.

A question of no less importance to us is the economic aspect of the treaty. Its implementation will of course require considerable expenditure but the projected reductions will cost us far less than it would cost to maintain nuclear systems at their present level in a state of combat-readiness until their service life expires. In addition expenditure on the physical destruction of weapons will be reduced, and substantially at that, through cooperation with the United States in developing and applying the relevant technologies. The United States will undertake direct financial assistance

to Russia in the safe destruction of nuclear arms which will include a consideration of the ecological aspects.

But the "profitability" of the START II Treaty is of course determined not only by economic considerations. The main thing is that the START II Treaty strengthens Russia's security at a complex period for our country—a period of profound domestic transformations—while appropriately reflecting changes in the strategic situation.

Another fundamental element is that the document signed in Moscow by the two countries' leaders signifies a major contribution to the solution of the problem of real nuclear disarmament and at the same time lays the foundation for constructive collaboration on this key salient with the new U.S. Administration, ensuring the continuity so necessary in these matters.

In the broad sense it is a document of the new era, opening up enormous opportunities in resolving the most complex problems on the path of collaboration and cooperation. It reflects the reality of the relations of partnership between Russia and the United States, the high level of trust between them, and the commonality of the two countries' aims on questions of the consolidation of reciprocal and universal security.

Berdennikov Article Disputed

PM1301170393 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by A. Yelistratov under general heading "Lightning Round With Warheads": "Americans Have Allowed Us..."]

[Text] The article published above by Deputy Foreign Minister G. Berdennikov will familiarize readers with the assessment of the treaty and the arguments in its favor by one of the creators and now defenders of that document. I shall allow myself to preface this commentary with a few figures: Approximately how the structure of Russia's nuclear forces will look in 10 years' time if this treaty's terms are followed.

The Russian leadership's decision to implement a drastic unilateral reduction to the number of warheads on ground-launched ICBM's from approximately 6,000 to 500-800 (that is, reducing them by a factor of 10-12 over the course of 10 years) drastically increases the role of Russian strategic aircraft and the submarine fleet. It may be expected that Russia will make full use of the quantitative limits for warheads for submarine-launched ballistic missiles (approximately 1,700 warheads on 20-25 missile-carrying submarines) and will distribute the 1,300 warheads left over from the overall limit of 3,000 warheads between approximately 80-100 strategic bombers and the 500-600 ground-launched single-warhead ICBM's mentioned above. Naturally, this is one possible option for forming the structure of the Russian nuclear forces within the framework of the START II Treaty but let us note immediately that the tough direct

and indirect restrictions on various components of the nuclear forces on this treaty leave minimal space for deviation from the structure outlined above.

The new structure of the nuclear forces defined by the terms of the START II Treaty has recorded Russia's renunciation of quantitative compensation for U.S. supremacy as regards quality.

That is the quantitative compensation (in terms of the overall number of ICBM's and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, the overall throw-weight of the nuclear warheads, the total number of missile-carrying submarines) based in previous years on the USSR's free choice of the structure of its nuclear arms emphasizing ICBM's was directly or indirectly reflected in the SALT I, SALT II, and START I talks. Moreover, U.S. agreement to quantitative discrepancies as regards delivery vehicles in favor of the USSR was on each occasion beaten out by the Soviet side in response to the U.S. decision to deploy sophisticated nuclear systems such as the USSR did not possess at the time (MIRVed submarine-launched missiles and ICBM's, B-1 bombers, strategic cruise missiles, Trident-2 missiles, and forward-based nuclear weapons including aircraft carriers with nuclear weapons on board).

In the new treaty the renunciation of compensation for Russia for U.S. superiority as regards quality and also the renunciation of Russia's traditional structure for the armed forces is not accompanied by any appropriate U.S. commitments to free the qualitative arms race or renounce sophisticated systems. Here continuity is violated in the position of the present Russian leadership and the previous USSR leadership in the approach toward the talks and we can observe Russia's de facto unilateral refusal to make our concessions conditional on the curtailment of the creation and deployment of qualitatively new U.S. nuclear systems (880 sophisticated nuclear cruise missiles on attack submarines of the Los Angeles class, sophisticated Trident-2 missiles with new high-precision warheads, the B-2 stealth bomber, the new "Midgetman" ICBM, and so forth).

In this connection G. Berdennikov's claims that the treaty reflects "the commonality of the two countries' aims on questions of the consolidation of reciprocal and universal security" and is "a major contribution to the solution of the problem of real disarmament" and ensures "the continuity essential in these matters" are insufficiently substantiated unless, of course, the aim is to grant unilateral advantages to the United States.

Thus by the year 2003 the American side would in any case be left with its 18 sophisticated Ohio class submarines built in the eighties and the 432 Trident-2 missiles deployed on them, which the Americans have kindly allowed themselves under the treaty.

Incidentally, one notices a certain incorrectness on the author's part in interpreting largely similar processes: The removal of superannuated U.S. submarines together with their missiles is made out to be an important

concession by the United States to Russia and a victory for Russian diplomacy while Russia's unilateral decision to renounce all heavy missiles in principle (and back in 1991 there were 306 of these) is presented as a necessity connected with the fact that they are obsolete and that the center for these missiles' production is in Ukraine. We shall not dispute the latter assertions but let us draw attention to the author's use of a dual standard in assessing quite similar situations.

As for G. Berdennikov's statement that the number of warheads on remaining U.S. sea-launched ballistic missiles is being reduced by a factor of three compared with the present level, this "achievement" becomes considerably less important when it emerges that under the treaty Russia is reducing by a factor of three what was serving as the main target for the U.S. submarines' nuclear missiles: The number of Russian ICBM launchers. An elementary mathematical sum and a knowledge of the limits set by the treaty shows that in the year 2003 as in 1993 each Russian ICBM launcher will, as before, be covered by three warheads from U.S. submarines.

The question of U.S. strategic aircraft deserves special attention. G. Berdennikov makes out that the fact that "the United States eventually undertook a real reduction (and not a hypothetical reduction, as was the case in the START I Treaty) of nuclear warheads on heavy bombers" is an important achievement for the Russian side. Let me remind readers that in 1979 and 1991 by mutual agreement between the sides it was stipulated that the U.S. B-1 bomber and later the B-2 bomber are reckoned in the overall ceilings on warheads as carrying 10 warheads each, although they were equipped to carry 20. At the time this was the result of a compromise in a certain sense connecting, when the calculations were made, the Soviet SS-18 heavy missiles with 10 warheads with the sophisticated U.S. bombers. The author of the article and the other defenders of the treaty hastened to declare the "realistic counting" of warheads on heavy bombers as virtually the main victory for Russian diplomacy at the recent talks. But why do they forget to mention that the Americans, having made this allegedly important concession, immediately obtained for themselves the right to remove nuclear weapons from a substantial proportion of their bombers (the sophisticated B-1 and B-2 and the old B-52 bombers) to "reorient them to perform nonnuclear tasks." This will enable the United States not to count these aircraft in the total nuclear ceilings under the START II Treaty, that is it puts many heavy bombers with their nuclear weapons beyond the framework of the treaty. And under the treaty there can be up to 100 of these aircraft! Moreover, under the treaty any of these bombers could again be reoriented to perform nuclear tasks if the other side is given at least 90 days' prior notification.

Here the thrifty Americans squeezed into the relevant article of the treaty a point about how the nuclear weapons removed from these bombers will not be destroyed but kept at least 100 km from aircraft bases.

How to assess in this context G. Berdennikov's assertion that the accord reached with the Americans regarding the bombers eliminates any possibility of bypassing the treaty when every condition for bypassing it has deliberately been created here? What would the Americans say if the Russian side were to suggest removing the nuclear warheads from a hundred or so Russian missiles in Vladimir, for instance, and storing them "for better times" in Suzdal and not destroying the silos and missiles, and stopping the jettisoning of fuel and saving it "for later..."

To critics ready to accuse me of keeping quiet about how I am interpreting the treaty's quotas, which extend to both sides, only with regard to the United States and as advantageous to it, I reply: But is that not the case? The question of the reorientation of the bombers for nonnuclear purposes in the military sense is not very topical at all for Russia. Russian long-range aircraft, deprived of the lion's share of their aerial tankers (Ukraine has got them) and without intermediate airfields to land en route to their combat duty zones, are in fact standing idle on the ground, gradually decaying. And the submarine fleet? Driven into the offshore waters of Russia, virtually deprived of surface ship cover, drastically restricted in terms of its repair base and staffing, it is experiencing the hardest times of its history.

Under these conditions copying the U.S. nuclear forces' structure with their emphasis on the naval and air components (which, incidentally, accords with the United States' geostrategic position but to very little extent with ours) and regarding all this as a choice in favor of "the consolidation of strategic stability," as G. Berdennikov does, seems rather dubious.

In an article published after the signing of the START II Treaty, Jonathan Steel, the Moscow correspondent of the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN, pointed to a paradox which marks the treaty: "In advancing in the direction of making the structures of their nuclear forces comply between itself and the United States, Russia is dooming itself to a discrepancy in results. It is joining an arms race in which it is already far behind."

A mass of questions with regard to this treaty, which G. Berdennikov for some reason considers "profitable" arises in connection with the unprecedentedly large-scale transformation of ICBM's and submarine-launched missiles, envisaged by the agreement, into new warheads, the capital reconstruction of 90 silos formerly used for heavy missiles to accommodate new single-warhead missiles, the destruction of hundreds of missile silos while at the same time deploying mobile launchers for missiles created 10 years ago. It would be right to ask the authors of the treaty whether over the next 10 years we can create anything qualitatively new corresponding to the latest U.S. systems like the B-2 stealth bomber? Or will military "perestroyka," having consumed the lion's share of our military budget, leave Russia by the year 2003 with its "remade" but hopelessly outdated systems? Will that not mean for Russia the complete inability to exert in 10

years' time even minimal influence on the further course of nuclear disarmament? These and other important questions, particularly those connected with the new nuclear strategy stemming from the new structure and composition of Russia's nuclear forces, are not touched on by G. Berdennikov and other defenders of the START II Treaty.

Russian Parliamentarian Criticizes START II Treaty

OW1401051193 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Studio interview with Ion Ionovich Andronov, deputy chairman of the Russian Parliament Committee for International Affairs, by Aleksandr Panov; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Panov] One of today's most important issues is whether the Russian parliament will ratify the treaty for strategic offensive weapons, the START II treaty, signed by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin. We have with us Ionovich Andronov, deputy chairman of the Russian Parliament Committee for International Affairs, broadcasting live from the "Utro" program. Good morning. Here is my first question. I know that you have come armed with the text of the treaty and with serious calculations, but I would first like to ask a general question. Do you not think that being a patriotic politician today means insuring that Russia is not still able to wave its mighty nuclear club in front of the rest of the world, and rather striving so that our people can live in a civilized manner, since they all have very poor living standards.

[Andronov] In answering your question, let me tell you that I have always considered myself a Russian patriot—before, during and at present [as heard]. But this does not mean that I am some kind of stagnated chauvinist or something like that. By the way, except for my parliamentary titles, I do not belong to any party or parliamentary faction or association. I represent one of the oldest Russian territories, Vladimirska-Suzdalskaya, where the first Russian state was created—even before Moscow.

[Panov] My question was not accidental. I had the treaty in mind, since it has been reported in the press that our parliament has some very definite feelings about it.

[Andronov] Let us get down to business.

[Panov] Yes, let us get down to business. What is your prognosis? I know that the Committee for International Affairs has not yet convened, and thus it has no general position on this issue.

[Andronov] The thing is, the text of the treaty was kept a secret...

[Panov, interrupting] But you have brought it with you.

[Andronov] This is the first time that I have brought the genuine text of this historic treaty and its appendix—a memorandum and two protocols—to Russian television, to your program. We have too little time so of course I will not go into details. But before passing any general judgements, both the parliamentarians and journalists must acquaint themselves with the text. Because people make statements....

[Panov, interrupting] Yes, everyone knows the general terms. The arsenals are to be reduced by two thirds by the year 2003.

[Andronov] Yes, yes. And everyone expresses their opinion, and....

[Panov, interrupting] This is a good thing, and I think no one objects to it.

[Andronov] Naturally, naturally. We must welcome the reduction, so that our people can live better lives. By the way, the residents of Vladimir suffer a lot, since this oblast has many with defense facilities. This is obvious.

But let us be brief. Here is the treaty itself, and here is another very important document which accompanies it. [Andronov picks up documents, exhibits them] It is a memorandum called "Memorandum on Calculating Warheads and Data on Heavy Bombers." What does this mean? General terms are expounded in the treaty, and the memorandum gives details. It should have stated how many missiles are being reduced, what kind, and how many warheads. But unfortunately, what came from the Foreign Ministry and what our viewers can see is that beginning from page two where this data should have been, there are blank spaces and omissions. [exhibits document]

[Panov] What are you driving at? That the treaty has been adopted in a hurry, that it has not been properly worked out?

[Andronov] I am driving at the fact that both you, me and the parliament are being asked to ratify, to put a signature under a blank space. Details on what missiles are to be reduced, by how many, and what quantity are omitted here. [points to the document]

[Panov, interrupting] Excuse me, but is there a possibility that, by the time parliament discusses it, these blanks will be filled?

[Andronov] No, they will not. I have received this from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have conducted talks and have even reached Mishin, the first deputy minister. This is the form... [changes thought] I have no words for this. I have been involved in international affairs for more than 30 years. What is this? Therefore, let us first....

[Panov, interrupting] We all know that you have occupied the post of [words indistinct].

[Andrinov] Let us....

[Panov] Do you think that there is a similar situation in the U.S. Congress? After all, it is the same text.

[Andronov] I think that of course, some agreement has been reached. Naturally so. But what you and I get is just blank spaces. I will not begin to comment on this; let us leave it for the future. In this case, the parliament is being asked to ratify a document which has nothing but blank spaces.

[Panov] Yes, we have shown close-ups of these blanks on the screen.

[Andronov] All right, that was the first thing. Here is the second. Let us take a look at the second document. Without getting into all the details, let me emphasize that the number of land-based intercontinental heavy ballistic missiles with multiple heads is being reduced. In other words, these missiles have not one but several warheads, and when they approach a country they are supposed to strike, these warheads separate and hit different targets. All such land-based missiles are to be liquidated—only single-warhead missiles will be allowed. However, intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple warheads which are based on submarines will be allowed. This is the trick. Our main arsenal of nuclear missiles is made up of land based, heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple warheads....

[Panov, interrupting] In other words, what you want to say is that parity is being disrupted.

[Andronov] Let me finish. But the American arsenal of identical-type missiles is based on submarines which patrol our shores. The flight time of our missiles is 30 minutes, but it is only 15 minutes for theirs. This is very important when you are talking about interception. Ultimately, in a war with nuclear missiles, which I am sure will not happen... [changes thought] they will not attack us, I am sure of it, they have no reason to do so. But in the event of a nuclear war, everything will be decided by the first 15 or twenty minutes. It does not matter if you have 3,000 or 5,000 warheads. If you and your opponent launch five missiles simultaneously, and you have one warhead on each allowing you to hit five targets, and he has 50 warheads all together—you die with your arsenal and your missiles, and the rest does not matter. According to this treaty, the Americans retain half of their arsenal of submarine-based multiple warhead missiles, which are close by. We lose all our multiple warhead missiles, which are the foundation of our arsenal.

[Panov] I would not like to go into the military aspects of this problem, but you have already elucidated it. We have shown the omissions. Unfortunately, we are running out of time. Thank you for giving us your point of view. I think that the viewers have understood it. It is just that we, who are not politicians, do not want a purely political fight to determine which is more important—the president or the parliament—in influencing the solution of such an important question.

[Andronov] Was that what I was talking about? I do not think that I was.

[Panov] You were not, but it was mentioned extensively...

[Andronov, interrupting] Let me stress again that I do not represent some political position, I belong to no party, faction or opposition, so your... [changes thought] I am telling you facts that up till now have not appeared on the television for some reason. Right? I am speaking on the basis of these documents, and it is up to you and your viewers to judge.

[Panov] I have to ask you another question—if you could answer briefly, in a minute or even 30 seconds—about the recent events in Iraq, which is under new aerial attacks by the allies. I know that the attitude of the parliament towards the Iraqi regime and the personality of Saddam is very clear. What is your personal attitude as an international expert and a parliamentarian?

[Andronov] I have no political sympathy towards Saddam, but I think that we should keep our distance from someone else's fight. It is none of our business. But if we get ourselves into a situation where we have nothing, we might be talked to in the future the same way Saddam Hussayn is being talked to. I hope this does not happen, and that we will not allow it.

By the way, this treaty says that the possibility for corrections and changes exists. I absolutely support the signing and ratification of the treaty, but in such a way that it would be mutually beneficial both for Russia and the United States.

[Panov] Thank you very much for coming in for this live broadcast and participating in our program. This was Ion Ionovich Andronov, expressing his opinions and views on the START II treaty between Russia and the United States.

Russian Ambassador Decries Politicization of START II

934C0696A Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Jan 93 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Vladimir Lukin, ambassador of Russia to the United States, by TRUD correspondent Vissarion Sinnev in Washington; date not given: "No One Will Cheat Anyone"]

[Text] [Sinnev] The agreement on START II was reached in record time. The "implacable opposition" maintains that this was the case thanks to our concessions. Some press organs have, as you know, christened the treaty a "betrayal of national interests." What can you say about this?

[Lukin] I would like to emphasize at once that I do not care for it at all when most important foreign policy issues, disarmament issues especially, are used as bait in domestic political struggle. This is not typical of really

democratic countries. Whereas domestic policy is a normal reason for heated debate, the main, fundamental aspects of foreign policy are usually of a national, general nature. This is extremely important because a democratic country is divided within into groups, it is pluralistic. And whatever is directed outside it should be above group interests. I myself never forget this—my personal sympathies and antipathies are one thing, but when, as in this case, it is a question of national interests, it is another. And I would greatly urge my esteemed deputy corps colleagues, regardless of the extent to which we agree or disagree at home, to be, for all that, patriots not in word but in deed. And this means making of paramount importance fundamental issues: how we appear to the world, how to seek the optimum of stability and our security. I am profoundly convinced that the vast majority of people's deputies proceed from just such considerations. Although there is a handful of people, very small, in my opinion, for whom, were there to be a further five Chernobyl's even, the opponent is automatically wrong, even if he has not yet begun to speak.

Now to the point. As U.S. Defense Secretary McNamara once said, overkill times overkill is nothing but overkill. What both sides cranked up all these years was a nonsense, and we are now turning the insane process back. The Americans are going back to the 1963 level approximately, we, to the 1975 level. And it is not true that we will be left with 3,000 warheads, the United States, with 3,500. Only those who have not taken the trouble to read the text of the treaty could say this. Clause 3 says clearly that by 1 January 2003 the total numbers of each side will not exceed a value between 3,000 and 3,500 warheads. Where is the "betrayal of national interests" here? I would like to call attention to one further point: Quantitative equality has been reached between us and the United States for the first time in the entire disarmament process. Earlier the Americans always had the advantage in terms of numbers of weapons. Although I personally do not consider the quantitative indicator what is most important here, since we are talking about this I would like to emphasize that the Pentagon will be destroying more warheads than us. The "implacables" do not have to take me on trust, this assertion can easily be checked by figures which are generally accessible.

[Sisnev] This is undoubtedly a serious concession on the part of the Americans, although there are some who altogether fail to discern such on their part. Could you point to anything else of this kind?

[Lukin] I would like first of all to point out that they have their "implacables" also. In the well-known and popular WASHINGTON TIMES newspaper the commentator Frank Gaffney, who also, evidently, has not familiarized himself with the treaty, castigates President Bush for having been in a hurry for the sake of his own prestige to sit down at the negotiating table and make entirely unwarranted concessions to the Russians. Hence the only possible answer is the facts. What, for example, might the local "implacables" interpret as "unwarranted concessions to the Russians"? We are for the first time

making a precise count of the nuclear weapons deployed on American nuclear bombers, previously it was very imprecise and allowed the possibility of there being considerably more of these weapons than those given out on account. Now a strict system of the monitoring of the United States' nuclear aircraft at their base facilities is established. The latest B-2 bomber, the so-called Stealth, is now subject to monitoring, to which the Americans had previously strenuously objected.

And is it a small matter that we will preserve 90 launch silos after the multipurpose intercontinental missiles have been destroyed? We argued about this for a long time, and at the last moment the Americans consented to this version. Scientists have calculated that this will reduce our missile-dismantling costs 40 percent, plus the entire costly infrastructure of the silos in the areas surrounding them, which will themselves be converted for missiles of a smaller caliber, will be preserved. And, finally, let us take the missiles deployed on surface ships and underwater. Not even disarmament specialists but simply people who read the newspapers know that for many years Washington did not even want to hear about including the naval nuclear arsenal in the overall numbers to be cut. Its navy was simply some sacred cow—do not touch, and let's hear no more about it. Yet START II means a reduction in the United States' naval MIRV's by half. Voices demagogically taking advantage of the eternal dilemma: a glass half-empty or half-full, are already being heard. Professional skeptics prefer to see it half-full, but realistic people realize how serious this American concession is.

[Sisnev] Have you discussed all these problems with President-elect Bill Clinton?

[Lukin] I have met Clinton just once as yet—when he was introduced to Boris Nikolayevich at the time of last year's top-level meeting in Washington. But he and Yeltsin recently spoke by telephone, and prior to this Clinton had received a message from our president on the issue of START II. He fully supported the treaty, as we all know, and did so on the basis of sound knowledgeability.

[Sisnev] What is meant by U.S. assistance in the physical destruction of Russian nuclear systems?

[Lukin] The treaty does not specify this directly but I believe that there is mutual understanding in this connection. It should be remembered that the principal essence of the treaty is that it appreciably lowers the nuclear threshold. It is clear, after all, that our SS-18 missiles are first-strike weapons, and the Americans cannot fail to be interested in the elimination of such a possibility as quickly as possible. The mere possession of such monsters could give rise to temptation in some hotheads. We currently have partner relations with America, but military professionals are required to proceed from the fact that anything could happen. It is a realistic expectation, therefore, that our partners will

help us tackle the difficult and costly task of the dismantling, destruction, or warehousing of the missile components, and agreement in earnest on this is planned with us. I would note in passing that updating the SS-18's, which are constantly "aging," would simply be beyond our means. The two principal plants manufacturing them are now not on Russian territory but on land which has become foreign. What should we do—reconstitute these giants of the military-industrial complex from scratch? With what money, I would permit myself to ask the gentlemen "implacables"?

[Sisnev] Since the signing of the treaty you have socialized with local political and public figures, with my colleagues....

[Lukin] I know what you are getting it. As far as your colleagues are concerned, Gaffney's article which I mentioned is undoubtedly a rare exception. And, generally, the basic reaction is formulated approximately thus: It is a great historical step forward. But there remain also misgivings connected with the fact that the realization of START II is possible only given ratification of START I. And serious delays connected primarily with the uncertain position of our neighbor and friend Ukraine have arisen here. Not only with it but primarily. A Ukrainian delegation, to which the Americans made it quite sternly understood that they expect unconditional compliance with the Lisbon agreements, according to which Ukraine undertook on its own volition to switch to nuclear-free status within seven years, has just left Washington.

[Sisnev] The uniqueness of your personal position is, in addition, the fact that you remain a people's deputy, that is, you are informed as to the prevailing mood in this, as the Seventh Congress showed, far from homogeneous mass. The "implacables" have already announced that they will try to bury the treaty. Yeltsin, on the other hand, is giving the assurance that they will not succeed. How do the prospects of ratification of START II appear to you?

[Lukin] I believe that the treaty will be ratified in both Washington and Moscow. I proceed from what I myself feel: The country's security is not a pretext for settling momentary political scores. I am convinced that, with a few exceptions, the majority of members of the Supreme Soviet proceed from this also. If, meanwhile, some people feel hurt by the fact that the United States will be left with more naval warheads, the treaty by no means prohibits us, should we so desire and given the resources, from matching it. No one will cheat anyone inasmuch as mutual monitoring will be exceptionally strict—more than ever. I suggest to my deputy colleagues: Let us examine the treaty in its totality, not pulling out individual parts on which a petty but effective game beneficial to one's faction could be played. We have no need to rush the ratification, and this would be pointless until others ratify and realize START I. Let us hold several hearings on the treaty as a whole, as is done in the U.S. Congress. We will hear the top specialists—ours, American, and neutral. The deputy or the Congressman is not

in himself a specialist but he has an opportunity to familiarize himself with authoritative expert opinion. Perhaps deputies should come and take a look at how this is taking place in Congress—not everything is going smoothly here either. As far as I know, the START II bill will be presented for congressional approval quite soon. We, on the other hand, thanks to our unhurrying neighbors, have time. All deputies, therefore, have a chance to study the treaty objectively and in depth. Given this condition, they will adopt it for, I repeat, I do not believe that the majority of deputies are concerned for some personal foibles but for the interests and well-being of the Russian state. Let us not in words but in deeds give thought to our national interests and the interests of world stability. Let us decide from the standpoints of the fatherland, not from the standpoints of personal ambition.

Ukraine Rejects Pressure Over START I Ratification

PM1301154493 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 3

[Report by correspondent O. Musafirova: "Ukraine Asks Not To Be Put Under Pressure Over Status"]

[Text] Following the signing of the START II Treaty by the Russian and U.S. presidents in Moscow, Ukraine, in the opinion of its official circles, has begun to come under marked pressure—primarily from the United States. People there are observing that START I and the Lisbon Protocol on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, which Ukraine has yet to ratify, are hampering the systematic implementation of the nuclear disarmament program by the participating countries.

As Dmitro Pavlychko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Foreign Affairs Commission, stated, "The START I Treaty will be examined in the Ukrainian parliament in February." Why not before? The voluminous work—three volumes, 600 pages of text—arrived in parliament six weeks ago. The deputies are not prepared to study it and make a decision so quickly. Furthermore the voluntary renunciation of the nuclear arsenal requires the fulfillment of three binding conditions which Ukraine has already mentioned repeatedly: guarantees from the nuclear powers; a subsidy for the process of dismantling the missiles; and compensation for the contents of the warheads removed to Russia for destruction.

On the day that Pan Pavlychko, as one of an official delegation, left on a visit to Israel, a thorough and rather stormy session on this question began in the commission of which he is in charge. First, the commission members distinguished firmly between START I and the Lisbon Protocol. They decided not to touch on the latter at all at this stage, but to leave it to mature.

As for START, whose ratification was favored by eight of the commission members against one, the following proposals were put forward. First, that the relevant calculations on the political and economic consequences

of such a step be demanded from the specialists—the ministries of defense and defense industry, the security service, the Institute of Strategic Studies—so that there is someone who can be called to account if unforeseen results arise in five years' time. (In 1997 Ukraine plans to become fully nuclear-free.) Second, that the sum of \$175 million made available (as yet only verbally) by America to finance disarmament be deemed patently insufficient. Third, that it be noted that the shipment of warheads to Russia for destruction there is too expensive a luxury. The uranium or plutonium extracted from the warheads could be sold for big money, which Ukraine itself needs.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister B. Tarasyuk, who recently returned from the United States, where he discussed nuclear disarmament problems with the Washington administration, notes:

"Ukraine will not yield to pressure from any direction whatever, and blackmail is counterproductive in this instance. Furthermore, we have yet to establish any links of such a kind that their severance would be destructive. Ukraine has made no additional demands concerning financial compensation. However, it was not by Ukraine's will that the strategic nuclear missiles ended up on our territory, and the disarmament process is extremely costly. It is hard to imagine that, in a time of economic crisis, the government will be able to find substantial funds for dismantling them. If the Supreme Soviet ratifies START I we will try to fulfill it—but within the limits of our financial potential."

Ukraine Ambassador on Giving Up Nuclear Weapons

LD1301211393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1650 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] For the first time in its history [as heard], Ukraine is voluntarily giving up its nuclear weapons. That is why we want to receive security assurances from both Russia and the West. This was stated in an interview by the Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia, Vladimir Kryzhanitskiy, with the Moscow TV channel.

According to him, such assurances could be a joint declaration of nonaggression by the nuclear powers as well as their guarantees against aggression by any third state. Speaking about the implementation by Ukraine of its international obligations, the ambassador reminded viewers that Ukraine had liquidated its tactical nuclear weapons ahead of schedule.

Ukraine Acceptance of Nonnuclear Status Viewed

PM1401095593 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev article: "Key Which Must Be Handled Sensibly"]

[Text] Following the first comments on the signing of the Treaty on Further Reductions and Limitations of Strategic

Offensive Arms by Russia and the United States, which were primarily of an emotional nature, the process of in-depth study of this document and of ways to implement it has begun. In this Kiev's position attracts the special attention of analysts. Of course, this is no coincidence. "Ukraine, which has 176 ICBM's on its territory," London's FINANCIAL TIMES writes, for example, "holds the key to the Russian-U.S. START II treaty." Until Kiev ratifies START I, which was concluded earlier and provides for the complete evacuation of nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory, the newspaper continues, it is impossible to begin implementing the new agreement.

The situation has been depicted very clearly. It only remains to remind you that an agreement was reached in Lisbon as long ago as last May that Ukraine and also Belarus and Kazakhstan would ratify START I, totally renounce the former USSR nuclear weapons which had ended up on their territory, and subscribe to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons as nonnuclear states.

Nothing has happened since then, however. The Ukrainian parliament has still not ratified START I. Officials in Kiev put this down to concern over security questions and to the great costs of dismantling nuclear arms. But what is actually making itself known is the inordinate nuclear ambitions of certain Ukrainian politicians—such as Stepan Khmara, let us say—and also the desire to make big money out of disarming nuclear missiles and utilizing their warheads.

At the recent U.S.-Ukrainian talks in Washington problems of arms control, particularly Ukraine's ratification of START I, were the focus of attention. Some pressure was brought to bear on the Ukrainian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk. U.S. President George Bush did not consent to giving Kiev any guarantees in the sphere of nuclear security. He merely handed Tarasyuk a resume setting forth Washington's plans in the event of Ukraine's ratification of the START I Treaty and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Tarasyuk declared that he was satisfied with the assurances which he had secured. So far, however, spokesmen for the U.S. Department of State maintain, the Ukrainian diplomat has been given no binding guarantees. The United States confined itself to a statement that it would seek immediate assistance for Ukraine from the UN Security Council, if it becomes the object of nuclear aggression or of the threat of such aggression, but these guarantees can come into force only after Ukraine's official agreement to become a nonnuclear state. These guarantees have been drawn up jointly with Russia and Britain. They will probably be enshrined in the form of a declaration by the heads of a number of nuclear states and then be confirmed by the Security Council.

This removes another question to which Kiev clings. By the will of fate one of the keys to the START I and START II treaties has ended up in the hands of Ukrainian politicians. It only remains to make use of it in such a way as to at last fling open the doors to a radical reduction of strategic offensive arms.

Venue, Time of CIS Summit 'Cannot Be Changed'

PM1401133993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with CIS Working Group Coordinator I.M. Korotchenya by O. Yegorova; place and date not given: "Last CIS Warning"]

[Text] "The venue and time of the meeting cannot be changed," CIS Working Group Coordinator Ivan Mikhaylovich Korotchenya believes.

[Yegorova] And yet, Ivan Mikhaylovich, there are rumors in political circles that, in reply to the Asian meeting, only Slavs might gather in Minsk 22 January...

[Korotchenya] I do not believe that such a proposal will arise. Primarily because the Tashkent meeting strengthened the Commonwealth and did not break it up. Minsk is already ready to hold a broader conference with a broader agenda. There can be no further delay—everyone realizes this.

[Yegorova] Have any new problems appeared on the agenda during the numerous postponements of the meeting?

[Korotchenya] Apart from the telegram from the leadership of Tajikistan, everything has remained practically as before. It spoke of examining the question of the internal situation in the republic.

Republics Fail To Meet Export Commitments to Russia

PM1401144393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by I. Kirilina and Ye. Lyadeyeva of the Administration of Statistics and Material Resources]

[Text] In 1992, despite the fall in the levels of production and the disintegration of the market, the geography of Russia's economic relations with countries of the former Union on the whole experienced no serious changes.

At the same time the reduction in levels of production changed the nature of the distribution of output between the states. The limited resources of the Commonwealth countries were primarily used for internal republic consumption. As a result the export of output began to decline, which brought about the nonfulfillment of mutual intergovernmental agreements. During the first nine months of 1992 Belarus, for example, delivered to Russia only 6 percent of the automobile gasoline stipulated by annual agreements, only 2 percent of diesel oils, 28 percent of diesel fuel, 39 percent of truck tires, and 32-33 percent of bulldozers and scrapers. Kazakhstan shipped to us 55 percent of the oil, 65 percent of the gas, 65 percent of the coal, and only 5 percent of the grain; Kyrgyzstan delivered 63 percent of the trucks; Armenia 20-22 percent of the synthetic rubber and AC motors and 16 percent of the metal cutting machines; Moldova sent

47 percent of the wood working machines; and Turkmenistan delivered 25 percent of the wool and less than 10 percent of the petroleum products stipulated by the annual agreements. Latvia's deliveries of minibuses were performed 66 percent.

Kazakh Leader Attends Interparliamentary Assembly

LD1201201693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1615 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Interview with Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin by correspondent Ozrina in the Tavricheskiy Palace in St. Petersburg, on work of the Interparliamentary Assembly; recorded—from the "Assembly at the Tavricheskiy" program]

[Text] [Abdildin] I would not say that all the constitutions of all states should follow a single general blueprint of a constitution. Rather, this is an attempt at bringing closer individual constitutional provisions.

[Ozrina] In what aspects, in your view, can they be brought closer to each other?

[Abdildin] In particular, in the field of protecting human rights and freedoms. This is a very important part of the constitution. In principle, the constitution can be divided in two parts. The first part relates to the individual while the second part covers state power and the way it should ensure its own people's life, freedom, and prosperity. The first part, in particular, dealing with universal human rights and the protection of citizens, should undoubtedly be brought closer. As regards the delimitation of powers, there could be an identical ideology there, since all the states are going to build democratic law-based states with two separate branches of authority, but imitation is impossible, in my view. In some states the parliaments will have greater power, in others the presidents, and still others will have mixed systems.

I think that our efforts to find common norms in the constitutions of the former union's states is literally a striving to ensure common living conditions for our citizens. And even regardless of the authorities' will, century-long ties between peoples have remained in our country. If you tried to close the borders, introduce a customs system, and establish a closed state, as it were, it would prove impossible nowadays. Ukraine has to communicate with Kazakhstan and, similarly, with Russia and all other states. Since we are going to communicate, certain legal and legislative foundations should help us in this. Even those ties which took shape over centuries and during the October Revolution have remained as such after the state was divided up. After all, you do not need a visa to fly from Moscow to Alma-Ata. This is a link which lives on. If you have relatives somewhere in Uzbekistan, you can freely go there to visit them. So this is a link.

The same applies to economic production integration, which is indivisible. If we are to assemble anything now, for instance, a Kirovets tractor, its components arrive from the entire territory of the country. So this is a link, too. Since this is a link and life makes us work together, I repeat again that we need legal and legislative foundations for communication.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Jan

LD1401090693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 14 Jan

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—ROSSIISKIYE VESTI, newspaper of the Russian Government, reports that a draft instruction of the government on measures aimed at implementing the resolution of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies on the pace of economic reform has been prepared under the guidance of First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko.

The newspaper points out that the draft instruction envisages a package of measures to effect social guarantees. "The elaboration of criteria of the determination of the minimum wage level and its continuous indexation are meant in particular. It is also planned to fix amounts for an increase in allowances and compensation payments to low-income citizens," ROSSIISKIYE VESTI explains.

In the opinion of the newspaper, the preparation of a special programme, in February on an instruction from the president, for the indexation of the population's deposits at the Savings Bank is expected to be one of the most radical steps of the government in the social sphere.

TRUD, commenting on the development of the situation in the country, observes that the first half of January "has brought quite unpleasant surprises in the field of prices which continue to go up at a rather rapid pace."

The newspaper gives data provided by the State Committee for Statistics which point to a price rise over the period of December 29 to January 5. The price of meat, for example, grew by 10.6 per cent over the week, that of butter by 10 per cent and that of milk by 15.2 per cent.

TRUD recalls that at the end of December the then acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said in an interview with the newspaper that "the rate of inflation should slow down within the next couple of months." But the January reality has upset all optimistic forecasts, and the prices continue to soar, TRUD emphasises.

Newspapers continue to comment on the Russian-U.S. Second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-2), signed at the beginning of this month.

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI carries an interview with Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff and the first deputy minister of defence, who refers to the START-2 Treaty as a "historic document of a new era, opening up vast opportunities for resolving the most complex problems along the road of interaction and cooperation."

Kolesnikov believes that the treaty reflects the reality of partnership relations between Russia and the United States, a higher degree of trust between them and the community of the two countries' goals concerning mutual and world security matters.

Different views are expressed as well. PRAVDA carries an article by Colonel P. Belov, candidate of science (technology), under the headline "START-2: An Unsound Parity."

Belov writes in particular: "Even the first impressions of familiarisation with the text of the START-2 Treaty and the very atmosphere of its precipitate conclusion make one ask about stimuli which the initiators of signing it were guided by—48 experts of and advisers to our president."

"Is it that they came to believe in earnest in a 'new world order' on 'democratic principles.' I am confident that Russia and other countries do not need ratification and implementation of the START-2," Belov concludes.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries an article by the newspaper's news analyst about the Paris conference at which the convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction was rendered open to signature, emphasises that, notwithstanding the difficulties connected with the enactment of the convention, "it must be honestly admitted: there is no alternative to it. To eliminate chemical weapons and fully ban their production is our duty to the world's future, to our children."

PRAVDA runs a draft political statement by the second special congress of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. The draft statement mentions the need to restore the Russian Communist Party's activity "which was interrupted by the decrees of the president of the Russian Federation in August-November 1991." It is pointed out that the draft statement is published for it to be discussed in the communist organisations of Russia.

**Foreign Ministry Awaits U.S. Word on
Diplomatic Talks**

OW1301152393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508
GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry is awaiting a signal from the U.S. State Department to begin discussions as to where and when Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will meet with Warren Christopher, whose appointment as the head of American diplomacy in the Bill Clinton administration will be considered by the Congress on January 13-14.

A high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official has confirmed that such a meeting is likely to take place in a "third country." Participants are expected to fix the time for another Russian-American summit, an agreement on which was reached in principle on January 4, in a telephone conversation between President Boris Yeltsin and President-elect Bill Clinton. The proposed summit is designed to "avoid a pause in the practical endeavors to implement the Russian-American START-2 treaty." It is supposed to be a working meeting.

No Officials Plan To Attend Clinton Inauguration

OW1301160393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554
GMT 13 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Evidently no Russian officials will be present at the inauguration of America's 42nd president, Bill Clinton, on January 20, a high-ranking member of the Russian Foreign Ministry responsible for Russian-American relations, told DP [Diplomatic Panorama].

His ministry, he said, got in touch with the U.S. State Department and with the Inauguration Committee, and was told that, in accordance with an established tradition, Washington doesn't issue official invitations to the presidential inauguration.

Nevertheless the diplomat believes that "at the last moment" the Americans might depart from this rule, and send an official invitation to Moscow after all.

- Congressmen and members of the Inauguration Committee, the diplomat also said, have the right to invite foreigners as their personal guests to the ceremony. In this case "the inviting party" undertakes to cover the expenses of its guest.

"President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan will evidently go to Washington as somebody's guest, even though Russian diplomats never succeeded in obtaining any information on this score from the Americans," said DP's interviewee.

**Intelligence Official Discusses Future CIA
Contacts**

PM1301154493 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Jan 93 Moscow Edition p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev; "Russian Intelligence Agents in United States Do No More Than Their U.S. Colleagues in Russia"—IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] Washington—Contacts between the Russian and U.S. intelligence services will continue after the handover of power in Washington. It is not ruled out that Yevgeniy Primakov, director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS], may go to the United States to meet CIA Director James Woolsey, his colleague in the Clinton administration.

I was told this by Lieutenant General Vadim Kirpichenko, leader of a group of FIS consultants, who is now in the United States on a very unusual trip. As he put it, it is the "first visit by an overt delegation" from Russian intelligence. The aim? According to the general, who was first deputy chief of the former KGB's former First Main Directorate, "we are telling people here what the Russian intelligence service is like, what principles it is governed by, what forms of parliamentary control it is subject to, what methods it operates by—in short, we are telling them about the new face of intelligence in a democratic society."

At the meetings the general and his delegation have already had, including a meeting at the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, no "direct complaints about the activity" of Russian intelligence agents in the United States were voiced. (Let me observe in parenthesis that when complaints are made, they are primarily targeted—as, for instance, in a series of recent public statements by CIA Director Robert Gates—at military intelligence, which is accused of increasing "aggressiveness.")

Without, of course, intending to deny that intelligence work is taking place in the United States, V. Kirpichenko, as he himself observed, pointed out to his interlocutors that "the work is not subversive or destructive in nature" and that Russian intelligence is no longer involved in financing political groups or organizing demonstrations. "Russian intelligence does no more in the United States than the United States does in Russia. We are engaged in collecting information without active interference in U.S. affairs."

As I understand it, V. Kirpichenko's delegation has not and apparently will not have contacts at a strictly official level in Washington. The delegation was not invited to visit the CIA, although, Kirpichenko says, "if they show an interest in us, we are ready for it."

What will be on the agenda for the meetings and contacts that are to continue after the handover of power in Washington? The exchange of materials and information and perhaps the exchange of experts on problems of

combating terrorism, the drug trade, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Kirpichenko says, stressing: "But there will be no one-way traffic. The exchange can only be reciprocal."

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Iraq

LD1401131593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text of statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow on 14 January]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The strike by aviation of the U.S., British, and French coalition forces carried out on 13 January against anti-aircraft and missile installations deployed by Iraq to the south of the 32d parallel was not unexpected. It was called forth by a series of actions undertaken by the Iraqi side recently in breach of the well-known resolutions of the UN Security Council on the post-crisis settlement in the region. It is a question of such steps as the deployment of missiles to the south of the 32d parallel, the seizure of military hardware to be destroyed, and the blocking of UN humanitarian actions.

Russia has more than once called upon the Iraqi side, including via its embassy in Baghdad, to show common sense and readiness to interact with the UN Security Council and to refrain from steps that could exacerbate tension in the region. The demarches by four representatives of Security Council permanent members to Iraq on 9 January and the statement by the Security Council chairman on 11 January this year were a clear signal to the Iraqis that it was necessary to stop disregarding the UN decisions. A clear warning was given to the effect that such a policy of obstruction would result in the adoption of all the measures that would be deemed necessary.

We hoped that Iraq would comply with the will of the international community, and a military operation would thus be avoided. To our regret, however, this did not happen.

Moscow proceeds from the assumption that the present action of the coalition forces was undertaken in the context of efforts on the part of the international community aimed at securing the observance of decisions on the elimination of consequences of the Iraqi aggression, adopted collectively under the aegis of the United Nations. We hope that this time the Iraqi leadership will heed the voice of reason, and will strictly abide by the provisions of all the UN Security Council resolutions. As for tough statements still heard from Baghdad, they do not testify to a realistic assessment of the current situation.

Commentator Solton Approves of Air Strike on Iraq

LD1401131993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 14 Jan 93

[From the "News and Views" program]

[Text] An air strike has been delivered on military targets in Iraq. Yuriy Solton now takes a look at the causes and consequences of the raid. This is what he writes:

The air raid, involving American, British, and French aircraft, lasted for only 30 minutes. Missiles hit anti-aircraft installations and command and control centers south of the 32d parallel, where a no-fly zone for Iraqi warplanes was declared last August to protect the Muslim Shi'ites opposed to the regime in Baghdad against repressions.

In the last few weeks American, British, and French aircraft on patrol have been increasingly threatened by both Iraqi military planes deliberately intruding into the zone and by ground-to-air missiles transferred to the country's south. Acting on behalf of the United Nations Security Council, the United States, Britain, France, and Russia warned Iraq that such actions were inadmissible, but as it had been two years ago, when the world community demanded that Iraq leave Kuwait, Baghdad ignored the warnings. More than that—the Iraqis began to cross into the demilitarized zone of Kuwait. Iraq resorted to other provocative actions in violation of its commitments on a post-war settlement in the Persian Gulf.

Saddam Husayn tried to play with fire again and again failed. Baghdad received what it had deserved.

It is difficult to predict how the Iraqi leadership will behave. While at the United Nations its ambassador has been assuring the Security Council that his country will scrupulously abide by the UN resolutions, the administration in Baghdad has been making bellicose statements about its readiness for a crusade against Kuwait to make it an Iraqi province sooner or later. Even after the military operations four permanent Security Council members have been compelled to make a serious warning to Baghdad again. They made it clear that the latest strike might be followed by new raids if Iraq continued provocations.

Of course, a military solution to the problem of Iraq is extremely undesirable. The limited military operation has already built up tension in the region. More extensive military actions could undermine the efforts to restore stability and peace in the area. Much will depend on how reasonable the Iraqi leaders will be. Nor has the United Nations exhausted its potential to apply political and other non-military measures against Baghdad to force it to strictly abide by the Security Council resolutions.

Kozyrev, Japan's Watanabe Discuss Ties in Paris

LD1301193593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Batyrev, Andrey Krasnoshchekov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Paris January 13 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Japanese counterpart Michio Watanabe have emphasised positive changes in

relations between Russian and Japanese people and in their attitude towards each other.

Kozyrev and Watanabe met in Paris on Wednesday to discuss bilateral relations. They said the changes create favourable conditions for reaching a new level of interstate relations between Russia and Japan and give impetus to the preparation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

Watanabe and Kozyrev stressed the coincidence of their positions on a variety of issues of mutual concern, saying this facilitated both countries' transfer to a higher level of cooperation in the international arena.

Kozyrev said the fact that neither Russia nor Japan question any more the need for more constructive partnership relations is a major advance in Russian-Japanese relations.

The two ministers touched upon the development of Russian-Chinese and Russian-Korean relations and agreed that similar tendencies are beginning to take shape in relations between Russia and Japan, which has a positive impact on the situation in the whole region.

Asked whether they discussed the problem of the disputed Kuril Islands, Kozyrev said it is inadmissible to confine relations between Russia and Japan to just the territorial dispute, adding that they did not discuss it in detail.

Yeltsin Visit to Japan Before G-7 Summit 'Unlikely'

OW1401024693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0224 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 14 KYODO—President Boris Yeltsin is unlikely to visit Japan before the seven-nation economic summit in July in Tokyo, a senior Russian Government official said Wednesday [13 January].

The official, who is in charge of policy toward Japan, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that there is no possibility that Yeltsin will visit Tokyo before the April 11 national referendum on a new draft constitution because he would not be able to dodge the territorial dispute with Japan when he makes the trip, and the dispute could directly affect his power base.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official also expressed doubt about whether Yeltsin could visit Japan in May or June, saying if the national referendum decides to abolish the congress of people's deputies, Russia's highest legislative body, the political trend will move to general elections.

The congress is dominated by conservatives and others opposed to Yeltsin's reform program aimed at introducing a market economy.

Kozyrev Leaves Paris To Attend Summit With Kravchuk

OW1401155893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Minister's secretariat informed INTERFAX that Andrey Kozyrev had interrupted his visit to Paris, where he had arrived in connection with the signing of the international convention on chemical weapons.

On Thursday morning [14 January], he was in his ministerial office, although initially he had planned to return from Paris in the evening, Kozyrev's assistant said. He explained the foreign minister's hasty return to Moscow by the forthcoming talks between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents. "There are many problems which cannot be solved without the Russian foreign minister," said this diplomat.

Ukraine's Kuchma Arrives in Moscow for Talks

LD1301210193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma arrived in Moscow late on Wednesday [13 January] to attend inter-governmental Russian-Ukrainian talks beginning on Thursday.

The parties are expected to sign agreements on bilateral economic cooperation.

Speaking to journalists before the departure, Kuchma said Ukraine wants to create an oil union with Russia to avoid possible price increases for Russian oil.

Ukraine has to participate in developing Siberian oil and gas reserves and oilmen from the Tyumen region in Siberia were invited to discuss the issue in Kiev, he said, adding that the talks will be continued in Tyumen.

If Russia increases oil prices, Ukraine will be forced to raise prices for railway, sea and other transportation of Russian goods. "This is an interlinked chain", Kuchma said.

The problem of paying the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union will be also discussed. Kuchma expressed hope that it will be solved during the meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Moscow. "It cannot be further delayed", he stressed.

Payments between Russian and Ukrainian enterprises will also be in the focus of discussion. "Very much will depend on the Moscow talks", the prime minister said.

Kuchma is optimistic about the outcome of the negotiations. "I am leaving for Moscow in a good mood as I have had several conversations with Viktor Chernomyrdin. Acting separately is good, but it is better to be together. We shall proceed from that", he stressed.

Chernomyrdin, Kuchma Discuss Relations*LD1401104393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0929 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jan—The Russian-Ukrainian talks are continuing here. After a one-to-one meeting between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ukraine Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma which lasted almost one-and-one-half hours, talks were continued with the participation of the full government delegations of both countries.

Opening talks in the extended composition, Chernomyrdin stressed that the issues which are being examined in Moscow today are extremely important for the two states. "We understand the economic situation both countries are in," the head of the Russian Cabinet continued, "but I think that we won't manage without each other today."

In this connection Chernomyrdin recalled that the economy of the former USSR was extremely monopolized and that on the territories of Russia and Ukraine there are such enterprises today, that neither this, nor the other side can do without their produce.

During a *tete-a-tete* meeting between the two premiers, government delegations of the two countries talked mostly about matters connected with settling the problem of the foreign debt and assets of the former Soviet Union. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has found out that no headway has been made yet with regard to this issue. The issue of prices for Russian energy carriers which are being supplied to Ukraine has not yet been finally settled either.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by Russian Government sources that by this hour only four documents on the results of the talks are fully ready for signing. They are agreements on labor activities and social protection of Ukrainian and Russian citizens working outside the two states, on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of atomic power engineering, on cooperation in the field of transporting oil to Ukraine and third countries, and a protocol on non-trade payments.

Sources within the Ukrainian delegation say that all in all up to 10 documents were prepared for the meeting of the premiers. It is expected that the signing of documents will take place after 1300 [1000 GMT].

Five Economic Agreements Signed*OW1401132593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1313 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A packet of five economic documents was signed after negotiations on Thursday [14 January] in Moscow between the heads of the governments of Russia and Ukraine.

The parties signed agreements: on employment and social welfare insurance for Russian and Ukrainian citizens living abroad; on scientific-technical and economic cooperation regarding atomic energy; on non-commercial payments.

In addition to these agreements, two letters of intent were signed. According to the letter of intent on cooperation regarding transportation, Russia and Ukraine have agreed not to introduce any special licenses for transport between the two countries until April 1, 1993.

An additional letter of intent concerning the bilateral trade agreement from October 22, 1992 specified that in the first half of this year no new customs tariffs shall be introduced, and that by July 1 1993, the countries will jointly develop a system of measures for the gradual transition to a free trade regime.

In answer to a question from an Interfax correspondent, Viktor Chernomyrdin reported that on Thursday and Friday government experts would continue work on drafts of joint agreements which "we will sign later" in the future.

The Russian leader sees the main result of the negotiations as the fact that despite problems in relations between the two countries, the parties "agreed to solve them together." He expressed the hope that problems with other Commonwealth states would be solved in a similar manner.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma told an Interfax correspondent that agreement had been reached between Moscow and Kiev to carry out debt reconciliation among their countries' enterprises by February 1, 1993. He also stated that both prime ministers would meet again at Chernomyrdin's request in either Tyumen or Orenburg to consider Ukraine's participation in developing oil producing regions in Russia.

Viktor Chernomyrdin in his turn emphasized that the question of Russian energy supplies to Ukraine "had less to do with prices than with amounts, for it is a question of survival." He said that Russia did not plan to limit oil supplies to Ukraine, saying that oil prices would be set at levels good "for both countries." Both prime ministers expressed confidence that questions concerning the foreign debt and assets of the former Soviet Union and energy supplies would be solved in a mutually acceptable manner after further consultations.

Chernomyrdin, Kuchma Agree on Oil Prices*LD1401122993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—Russia and Ukraine agreed on oil prices which are "beneficial for both countries", Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told reporters on Thursday after his talks with Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kuchma.

He did not elaborate, but added that the talks concentrated mostly on the volume of oil shipments to Ukraine, rather than on the price. Russia does not intend to artificially limit oil supplies to its neighbour, Chernomyrdin said. "As far as prices are concerned, I do not see any special problems here, we agreed that prices will be beneficial for both countries", he stressed.

Kuchma added that he and Chernomyrdin have agreed to meet in a Russian oil-rich region, either in Tyumen or in Orenburg, early in February to discuss Ukrainian participation in the development of the Russian oil and gas complex.

Before leaving for the Moscow talks Kuchma said Ukraine wants an oil union with Russia and warned that Russian price hikes for oil may force Ukraine to increase transportation fees for Russian goods via Ukraine.

The two prime ministers also agreed to offset mutual debts between Russian and Ukrainian enterprises.

However, several problems are yet to be solved, including the question of the former Soviet external debt. Chernomyrdin and Kuchma expressed confidence that the issue will be settled in the near future, adding that experts are currently working on it.

Problems also remain regarding several branches of industry in both countries, according to Chernomyrdin. "These are problems to be settled together", he said, adding that the Moscow talks gave a big impetus to their solution.

Kuchma said he is optimistic about the future after talks with his Russian counterpart.

Shokhin Says Moscow Wants Debt Agreement With Ukraine

OW1301184893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia anticipates to reach an agreement with Ukraine to transfer the functions to control the foreign debt and the assets of the former USSR to the Russian Federation. This information was reported by the Russian Vice Premier Aleksander Shokhin to journalists who had a meeting with the chairman of the deputies chamber of the National Congress of Chile, Zose Viera Galio, on Wednesday. According to Shokhin, Russia has already reached such agreements or agreements about the so called "null variant", which envisage the transfer of the corresponding shares of the assets and liabilities of the former USSR abroad, with other CIS states.

The Vice Premier stands for the development of an effective strategy of foreign borrowing in Russia. In particular, he said about the expediency to think over the variants to convert the foreign debt into the property and to exchange the debts of the former USSR for the debts of some other countries to the former Soviet Union.

The deputy head of the Russian government pointed out that Russia would like to reduce the payments on foreign debt in 1993 to \$3 billion or even less. Otherwise, he said, Russia will be forced to look for additional currency reserves to compensate the foreign debt. In particular, this can lead to the necessity to increase the export of oil products outside the CIS and this is unprofitable for the Russian Federation due to the existing economic relations with the countries of the Commonwealth.

The representatives of Chile stand for the development of the economic relations with Russia saying that the most effective spheres of their cooperation might be fishing, mining industry, and research of the Antarctic regions. They also proposed to sign bilateral agreements on the protection of investments and on avoiding of dual taxation which are being developed by the embassies now.

Ukraine Said To Breach Black Sea Fleet Accords

PM1301115193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 3

[Vladimir Maryukha report under "Events and Commentary" rubric: "Ukraine Continues Unilaterally To Steal Away the Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] The Russian Navy Main Command has been forced to issue a protest to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry over actions which are in breach of existing agreements and destabilize the situation in the Black Sea Fleet.

By directive of the Ukrainian first deputy defense minister an understrength artillery unit of the Black Sea Fleet shore-based forces was placed under Ukrainian Navy command at the end of last year. Following this, on 31 December, the Ukrainian oath was administered in the unit, in which procedure around 60 percent of the personnel took part under pressure of the prevailing circumstances.

At the start of the new year Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, commander in chief of the Ukrainian Navy, and his deputies visited the fleet garrison in Izmail. There an apartment block was confiscated from the Black Sea Fleet for the use of the Ukrainian Navy, while the command of units stationed in the city was subject to threats and abuse from Boris Kozhin's first deputy, Captain First Rank Nikolay Kostrov, who demanded the sailors come immediately under Ukrainian jurisdiction. Given such actions on the part of Ukrainian representatives, Captain First Rank Valeriy Pomazan, commander of a brigade of river launches, was forced to request the Black Sea command to protect the garrison from attacks

undermining the combat readiness of units on the southwest flank of the CIS, including Ukraine.

By yet another directive the Ukrainian Defense Ministry attempted to take over rear service units of the fleet stationed in Odessa, while on 10 January an attempt was made to nationalize Black Sea Fleet Health Center No. 110 in Sevastopol. All the establishments and units which figure on the lists for placing under new command are integral components of the Black Sea Fleet and, under the agreements reached at Yalta and Dagomys, are not to alter their status before 1995.

In response to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's actions, which blatantly flout the accords confirmed by the presidents of the two republics, the Fleet Main Command has, as reported by chief of the Russian Navy press center, Captain Second Rank Aleksandr Beledyev, issued a firm protest to the Ukrainian side.

Grachev, Georgian Defense Ministers Hold 12 Jan Talks

LD1301151793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1410 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shvetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan—Questions on the status of Russian regular and border troops on the territory of Georgia, including those in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, have been discussed at a meeting between the Russian and Georgian defense ministers. As the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today from sources in the Russian defense department, the confidential meeting was held on 12 January at the request of Tengiz Kitovani. The Georgian minister has been in Moscow since 10 January.

This was the second meeting in the past two weeks between Pavel Grachev and Tengiz Kitovani. The previous meeting took place at the request of the Georgian minister on 31 December 1992. The Georgian side at that time raised the question of the withdrawal of Russian units from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The Russian defense minister delivered a protest to the Georgian side in connection with its illegal actions with regard to the Russian troops stationed on the territory of Georgia, and confirmed that such actions will be stopped in the most decisive manner. The sides then agreed to set up expert groups to work out agreements between the two defense ministries on preventing conflict situations.

Yesterday's meeting bears witness to the increased activity of the Georgian side in establishing contacts with the Russian leadership on the eve of the third round of Russian-Georgian talks on drafting the text of a friendship and cooperation treaty between Russia and Georgia, planned for 20 January, and also to the attempts to find a mutual understanding with Russia on resolving the conflict in Abkhazia.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent also learned that the Georgian interior minister has been in Moscow and that on 11 January he met with the Russian interior minister.

'Sources' Say Moscow To Postpone Talks with Georgia

LD1301230993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian side intends to postpone for a week the talks between Russia and Georgia at the level of official delegations, which were previously planned for 20 January. RIA was told this by informed sources from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

It was learned from the same sources that in the course of the continuing preparations for the forthcoming talks between Russia and Georgia, the Georgian side has put forward new comments on the draft treaties on friendship and cooperation, on the status of Russian servicemen on the territory of Georgia, and on the status of Russian border guards on Georgia's territory.

Kondratyev Calls For Talks on Troops in Georgia

OW1301190293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1813 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, the deputy of the Russian Defense Minister, declared to INTERFAX that it is necessary to immediately conduct high level negotiations before the conclusion of an inter-state treaty between Russia and Georgia.

He pointed out that it is necessary to determine the status of the Russian forces stationed on the Georgian territory and to ensure their complete security. If a decision to withdraw the forces is adopted then it should be done as soon as possible, Kondratyev underlined. At the same time the General said that Russia will not be able to immediately withdraw its military formations from the Abkhazian territory as the Georgian party insists. "There is our property, our sanatoriums on this territory and we must ensure its safety and also the security of the Russian-speaking population," the general declared. The deputy Defense Minister underlined that in accordance with the resolution of the Russian Supreme Soviet dated December 25 the Russian servicemen have no right to hand over the weapons to Georgia until the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict is solved. He reminded that the Russian forces entered the region of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict on August 14 "not as aggressors but with the consent of Tbilisi." The general is convinced that the settlement of the conflict cannot be reached by a military means. Today Abkhazia has military formations capable to oppose Georgia, Kondratyev noted. At the same time, in Kondratyev's words, within the year of its independence Georgia failed to create its army because those military formations which are acting

on its territory do not present a coordinated and controllable army mechanism. The general is convinced that the only way to settle the Abkhazian-Georgian conflict is to start negotiations but not to call on "blue helmets" or Russia for help. He reported that Russia is ready to render assistance to Georgia in the formation of its armed forces necessary to ensure its outer security.

Meanwhile, as the general said, the attitude to the Russian forces on the Georgian territory becomes more and more intolerable with every passing day. As an example Kondratyev mentioned the attack against the 12th brigade and the capture of hostages (the brigade is being withdrawn from Lagodecha and only a small number of the servicemen is still there.)

Moscow Welcomes Geneva Accord on Bosnia

LD1301180393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Russia welcomes the preliminary agreement reached at the peace talks in Geneva to settle the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is the first step towards the success of negotiations initiated by the London conference and carried out by its coordinating committee chairmen Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen, a Russian Foreign Ministry official told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

The official welcomed the readiness expressed by Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic to accept the principles of constitutional settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina proposed by Owen and Vance. He voiced the hope the move will be followed by the whole Serbian people.

The diplomat stressed the need to restate the reached agreements and move ahead in order to adopt the whole package of documents on Bosnia drawn up by Vance and Owen.

The Russian Foreign Ministry hopes all Bosnian sides will continue constructive interaction aimed at attaining a comprehensive settlement and believes the constructive role played by the presidents of Yugoslavia and Serbia, which has largely contributed to the adoption of the agreements at this stage, will provide for both their successful implementation and further talks, the diplomat said.

Only through combined efforts and with the support of the world community could a political solution to the Bosnian conflict be found, the official said.

He added that the Russian Foreign Ministry considers a preliminary agreement between the presidents of Yugoslavia and Croatia on the normalisation of relations between the two countries as an encouraging step towards a conflict settlement in Yugoslavia.

Government Warns Latvia on Actions Against Russians

LD1401123293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a statement by the Russian president's press secretary, Kostikov. Information being received from Latvia indicates that trends towards confrontation with regard to Russia are gaining in strength, the statement says. The rights of ethnic Russians are being violated, and there is violence towards Russian property.

The president cannot disregard instances of human rights being violated, and reserves the right to take all necessary measures to defend the legal rights of oppressed citizens. Responsibility for the consequences of discriminatory actions in respect of ethnic Russians lies fully with the Latvian side.

Zotov Sees Russian-Latvian Ties in 'Critical Phase'

OW1301160893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A major goal of Russian diplomacy in the Baltic direction is to promote neighborly and economically beneficial relations with Latvia, one half of whose population has kindred ties with Russia, the leader of the Russian governmental delegation to the talks with Latvia, Sergey Zotov, told DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. According to him, the accomplishment of this task is hindered by the continued presence of "anti-Russian elements" in Latvia's foreign policy.

Zotov believes that relations between Russia and Latvia are in a critical phase, since "Latvia is seeking to turn its internal legislative acts into a major regulating factor in its contacts with Moscow." Riga dodges the drafting of such important documents, as agreements on the ways to settle the issues of citizenship, on the legal status of Russian troops for the time of their withdrawal, on the ways to divide property, on the state borders, on consular relations, on pensions, etc.

According to the diplomat, at this year's talks Russia intends to pay particular attention to the observance of human rights in Latvia. Moscow will build its relations with Riga, depending on Latvia's willingness to bring its domestic legislation in the area of human rights into line with world standards and international commitments.

"Unless a breakthrough is achieved in the drafting of appropriate agreements, serious complications might emerge in bilateral relations," Zotov said.

Moscow To Deliver Aid to Albania, Montenegro

LD1301230393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] A transport plane which will deliver food, medicines, and other goods to the inhabitants of Montenegro and Albania, will leave Moscow today. The decision to give humanitarian assistance to the inhabitants of these countries was taken by the Russian government.

Political Issues

Security Council Meets on Caucasus, Borders, START II

LD1301155693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1451 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Security Council, chaired by President Boris Yeltsin, held a routine meeting in the Kremlin today. The president's press service reports that the meeting examined the North Caucasus situation. Ways of resolving the complex sociopolitical situation that has evolved in this Russian region were discussed. The meeting examined a range of issues related to the state of Russian borders and the operation of the country's border services. Relevant decisions were made on all the issues discussed.

The Security Council approved the provision on the interdepartmental commission set up by a Boris Yeltsin decree. Instructions relating to the procedure for preparing the ratification of the START II Treaty in the Russian Supreme Soviet were given.

Further on Meeting

LD1301192793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1538 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan—A routine meeting of the Russian Federation Security Council, chaired by President Boris Yeltsin, took place in the Kremlin today. The president's press service reports that the meeting examined the situation in the Northern Caucasus. It discussed ways of solving the complex sociopolitical situation which has taken shape in that part of Russia. In addition, the meeting examined a range of issues related to the state of Russian borders and the operation of the country's frontier services. It also analyzed progress in developing a blueprint for Russia's foreign policy in conditions of the democratic statehood which is taking shape.

The meeting noted that one of the main ways of stabilizing the situation in the Northern Caucasus, including settling the Ossetia-Ingush conflict, is to take the path of peaceful talks and the search for acceptable compromises.

The meeting stressed, however, that it is part of Russia's vital interests to ensure human rights and freedoms, regardless of the individual's nationality, and to protect the territorial integrity and social institutions in the Northern Caucasian region.

Relevant decisions were taken on all the issues discussed.

After a discussion of the problems of forming and strengthening Russia's borders, the government was instructed to step up border and customs control over the movement of goods, raw materials, financial capital, and cash. A specific instruction was given that the

activities of illegal armed formations on Russian territory must be resolutely halted, and in particular that these formations must be speedily disarmed.

The Security Council approved the provision on the interdepartmental foreign political commission set up by the president's decree. It gave instructions relating to the procedure for preparing the ratification of the START II treaty in the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Yeltsin Appoints Security Council Deputy Head

LD1401073393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0718 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed Yuriy Nazarkin deputy head of the Russian Security Council and head of the Strategic Security Department.

Nazarkin was head of the disarmament and arms control department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Shakhray Discusses Caucasus Situation

OW1401002493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray by unidentified INTERFAX correspondents; place and date not given; report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The deputy prime minister was speaking in an exclusive interview with Interfax [IF] on Wednesday [13 January].

IF: What is the main purpose of your coming visit in Grozny?

SHAKHRAY: I will meet with Chechen officials to discuss ways of normalising relations between Moscow and Grozny, the first such contact in my capacity of chairman of the nationalities committee.

IF: Can your visit be taken as Moscow's recognition of Chechen independence?

SHAKHRAY: I'll be guided by the constitution of the Russian Federation and the federation treaty during the talks.

IF: How does your visit tally with your recent statements calling for the use of force to prevent the break up of the Russian Federation?

SHAKHRAY: Sadly, my position on the use of force has been twisted by the press. Coercion should not be used as a way of regulating ethnic relations. But when it comes to violence, bloodshed, or when regional leaders resort to weapons as a way of resolving ethnic or territorial

disputes, or anyone tries to violate Russia's integrity by the use of arms, the state (if it deems itself as such) must ensure its own security and that of its citizens. This is one side of the medal. The other one is that the use of the armed forces for resolving ethnic issues or to be more exact, for pursuing ethnic policies is a hopeless thing, and I am well aware of this. I prefer negotiation, and generally speaking, I can strike common ground with any politician provided there is a basis for cooperation. My own position based on Russia's integrity must be clearly defined and defended.

North Caucasian Military District Set Up

OW1301153793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1510 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's first interior forces military district has been set up on the territory of the Northern Caucasus. A spokesman for the Interior Forces HQs in Rostov-on-the-Don told INTERFAX that its sphere will encompass Rostov and Volgograd regions, Stavropol and Krasnodar territories, as well as all the republics in the Northern Caucasus except for Chechnya. The estimated strength of the new military district is 30-35,000 officers and men. The spokesman for the Interior Forces HQs emphasized that the inception of this military district is explained exclusively by the structural changes occurring in the interior forces.

The Northern Caucasian district has been tailored on the basis of the former regional interior department to be assigned the missions traditionally vested in the interior forces, such as assistance to the interior bodies in preserving law and order, safety of citizens, observance by citizens of the state of emergency, protection of correctional institutions, and territorial defense.

The territory of Russia will be divided into seven military districts: Moscow, St Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Khabarovsk, Nizhny Novgorod, and special units assigned to guard the state installations equivalent to a military district.

The press service of the interior forces maintains that the troops have already begun selecting servicemen for the new districts on the contractual basis. The number of personnel to be inducted in 1993 will total over 20,000 people.

'Sources' Say Control Directorate Chief To Quit

LD1301214193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Form the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA journalists have learned from well-informed sources that at a staff meeting today of the Russian administration's Control

Directorate, Chief State Inspector Yuriy Boldyrev stated he has decided to leave his post as head of the directorate.

Yeltsin To Meet 'Democratic Choice' Representatives

LD1401084793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0818 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will meet in the Kremlin on Thursday representatives of the pro-reform association "Democratic Choice" to discuss the referendum on the Russian Constitution scheduled to be held on April 11.

The "Democratic Choice" will familiarise the president with the seven main principles which must form the basis of the Constitution. These include the right of a nation to referendums on key issues of the state, the provision on the structure of supreme organs of authority which grants the popularly elected president the right to form the government, and private ownership of land.

The "Democratic Choice" was set up in July last year. It groups some 30 democratic political parties and movements.

'Democratic Choice' Submits Referendum Program

MK1301170193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 2

[Vladimir Todres report: "'Democratic Choice's' Seven Points. Radicals Prepare for Referendum 11 April"]

[Text] The "Democratic Choice" bloc is ready to submit to President Yeltsin its version of the questions to be put to the April referendum. In the opinion of the bloc's leaders, although the "referendum staff has only just been set up within the presidential structures," the campaign must be started now—"the April ballot may save the reform" and, what is more, "whoever starts first receives the main political prize."

"Democratic Choice" is pressing for Russian citizens to voice their opinion on seven points: on the competence of each branch of power; on the people's right to a referendum on any issue; on a bicameral parliament (rather than a congress of people's deputies) as the basis of the legislature; on direct presidential elections and the president's appointment of the whole vertical executive (aside from heads of administrations); on the convocation of a constitutional assembly; on the inviolability of property; and on private ownership of land.

Incidentally, the Supreme Soviet should have adopted a decision on the land referendum by the end of 1992—the one-month period stipulated by law from the time that the million signatures collected were submitted ended 31

December. For the time being there has only been a promise from the White House to "investigate in the near future." Lev Popolyarev, one of the leaders of "Democratic Choice," thinks that the Supreme Soviet is deliberately impeding the April plebiscite. Thus, the Supreme Soviet Presidium decided Monday to extend until April the powers of the electoral commissions set up for the 1990 elections.

"Thus, the preparation of the referendum may be quite simply wrecked," Vyacheslav Volkov, Supreme Soviet member, said. We would comment that, according to information at the disposal of Oleg Rumyantsev, senior secretary of the Constitutional Commission, no republic, oblast, or kray in the Russian Federation has yet been able to give a firm promise that it will be able to get ready within the remaining three months. Rumyantsev is proposing to postpone the referendum until 12 June and agree by then the points to be raised there with the presidential team, the Constitutional Court, the republics and oblasts, parties and blocs, and as many deputies as possible.

"Democratic Choice" categorically disagrees with any postponement of the date of the ballot and does not believe that a compromise between the Supreme Soviet and the president is possible—it is all the same whether it is for three or six months. In the bloc's opinion, in one way or another alternative wordings—the "Khasbulatov" and the "Yeltsin" versions—will be submitted to their compatriots' verdict on all questions.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Monitoring Public Associations

LD1301200593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1455 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today issued a decree "On Measures for Stepping Up Monitoring of the Creation and Activities of Public Associations."

The president's press service announced that under the decree, the Russian Government and executive power bodies at local level are instructed to ensure the strict observance of constitutional legality during the registration of statutes of public associations, and to ensure that monitoring of their activity is stepped up. The procurator general of the Russian Federation is called on to increase surveillance of the compliance with Russian Federation laws by public associations, including those whose statutes have not been registered.

The document also contains a recommendation that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet speed up the processing, adoption, and bringing into force of laws on political parties and public associations.

Commentary Foresees Banning Parties, Organizations

LD1301223693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian president's press service has reported that on Wednesday Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on measures for stepping up control over setting up public associations and their activity. Here is Andrey Krasnov, our commentator.

[Krasnov] The decree makes it incumbent upon the Russian Government and the local bodies of executive power to ensure the strict observance of constitutional legality when registering public associations. This is a necessary preamble, as it were, while the main point is as follows: By Yeltsin's decree executive power must step up control over the activity of public organizations. Recommendation has been made for Russia's procurator general to step up work in this area. Simultaneously, the president has suggested that the Supreme Soviet should speed up the drafting of laws on political parties.

So it appears that Boris Yeltsin has decided to somewhat clear up the Russian political landscape. It seems that a number of parties will be simply banned in the near future. I for one have nothing against it. A huge number of different organizations which openly call for violence, fan up interethnic strife and, in general, do not care a rap about the constitution and laws, are currently active throughout Russia. Banning these wretched little parties will only benefit public order.

However, it is important not to overdo things in this respect, something which is often the case in our country. Yeltsin's decree should not be used to club the legal opposition which disagrees with the policies of the present-day authorities.

Meanwhile, given the absence of laws, which the Supreme Soviet is in no hurry to adopt, the executive may now be tempted to put the squeeze on its opponents. The issue of the decree, however, does not yet mean that all parties and associations whose programs contradict the constitution will automatically cease to exist. I will recall, for instance, that not long ago Boris Yeltsin banned the National Salvation Front which is, nevertheless, safe and sound today. A mechanism for implementing presidential decrees has not yet been created, therefore it is not clear for the time being what consequences the new document will have.

Former Minister on Need To Preserve Nation's Unity

OW1301154493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former Soviet Union's ex-premier Nikolay Ryzhkov said that the preservation of Russia's unity was

the main political task and urged politicians to create a mechanism of cooperation within the framework of the CIS.

Addressing Cabinet members and leaders of Russian industrial enterprises and media at the Commercial Club on Tuesday, he compared the current period with the great depression of 1929-33.

He stressed that he still thought Russia could not change over to market relations without active state regulation and that he was 70% in favor of the Civic Union's economic program, drafted on the eve of the 7th Congress of People's Deputies.

Ryzhkov believes that the main problem facing the Russian leaders now is the preservation of Russia's unity.

He also said that no mechanism of cooperation between the former Union republics has been created. He mentioned the recent meeting between the leaders of the five Central Asian states in Alma-Ata and their intention to create a common Central Asian market. This signals the warning that the USSR is being replaced by cardinally new alliances, said Ryzhkov.

Shafranik Appointment to Energy Ministry Assessed

MK1301163993 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 3

[Vladislav Borodulin report: "New Russian Fuel and Energy Minister. Russian Government Becoming Government of Major Industrialists"]

[Excerpts] Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict appointing Yuriy Shafranik minister of fuel and energy, the day before the president put Igor Shurchkov at the head of the State Committee for Industrial Policy (See KOMMERSANT-DAILY 12 January). These appointments of representatives of big business allow observers to conclude that the core of Viktor Chernomyrdin's "team" has finally been formed. [passage omitted]

KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts do not rule out further changes to the Cabinet of Ministers since, unlike the previous government, it does not have a vice premier responsible for the activity of the fuel and energy complex. It was thought that Georgiy Khizha would take charge of these questions in Chernomyrdin's government, but since he is tackling problems of the military-industrial complex and conversion, Shafranik's appointment as vice premier responsible for the development of this sector would seem entirely logical.

Economic Issues

Gaydar Comments on Chernomyrdin's Economic Policy

LD1301150193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0837 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—"We all have the greatest interest in matters going as well as possible with Viktor Chernomyrdin's government. And our every hope is that this government proves to be even better than its supporters hope and, of course, better than its most hostile opponents think." This was stated by Yegor Gaydar, former acting head of the Russian government, at a meeting with LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. The interview with him is published in the latest issue of the paper.

In his opinion, the new government should deal first of all with prices. "Without financial stabilization," he said, "any talk about raising production is absolutely pointless". As the former premier affirms, "production in Russia has not fallen since August (last year). And if we exclude military production, it has even grown".

Referring to strategic problems which must be solved first by the new government, Yegor Gaydar picked out two of them: the differentiation of income and the absence of capital.

Asked what mistakes his government had made, Gaydar said that "from the very beginning it overestimated the possibility of the microeconomic adaptation of state enterprises to the new realities". In addition, he thinks he was mistaken in not insisting at an early stage on the issuing of high-value denominations to solve the problems of the mass of personal currency, in not freeing oil prices as early as January last year, and in not being able to solve questions of foreign economic regulation.

While admitting that the living standards of the large mass of the people had fallen during his government, he declared at the same time that "the young capitalism which we are building will never be wonderful, ordered, and heavenly all at once. We must approach it gradually. And the new bourgeoisie will at first be such as it is - as a rule, speculative in the first instance."

Gaydar said that he would never again want to be premier.

Government To Revise Price Control Resolution

LD1401094593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyampolskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—The Russian Government will revise its resolution restoring state control over prices for basic foodstuffs and goods which many observers assessed as backtracking from reforms.

First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko told reporters on Thursday that the publication of the resolution was a misunderstanding. It was planned that the document would be seriously improved before entering into force, he explained.

The new variant of the resolution preserves control over prices only for goods produced by monopolists as is envisaged by legislation, Shumeyko said. This practically means that the resolution is cancelled completely as price limits for monopolists had existed before.

The mechanism of price regulation envisaged by the published resolution "will not work in Russia" as there is no system which would control profitability at various enterprises, Shumeyko said. The resolution established profitability limits for the production of various goods.

It is time to begin regulating prices by cartel agreements on the regional and federal levels. In this variant the price is a "compromise between the demand and the supply, between the producer and the customer", Shumeyko said.

Fedorov Criticizes Price Regulation Decree

PM1401095193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13
Jan 93 Morning Edition p 1

[Mikhail Berger report: "Decree on Price Regulation Does Not Reflect Government's General Course, Vice Premier Boris Fedorov Claims"]

[Text] One of the first major decrees signed by Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, "On the state regulation of prices for certain categories of foodstuffs and goods," has made a great impression on observers here and abroad. The document is not at all in line with the new premier's proclaimed loyalty to the course of market reforms.

There is, admittedly, a version which maintains that the draft of the now well-known document was actually prepared by the Gaydar cabinet and, in this sense, Chernomyrdin was operating within his predecessor's guidelines. In an interview given to INTERFAX, Vitaliy Kaurov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Price Policy, actually corroborated that version by announcing that the decree was drawn up by the previous government. Kaurov also noted that in his opinion the document is not contrary to the principles of the market economy.

It must be presumed that the thesis of the market character of the state regulation of prices will find few supporters outside the Committee for Price Policy. As for the document's origin, that is hardly of great importance: No matter who prepared or bequeathed it, it bears the signature of the present head of the cabinet. Consequently the responsibility rests primarily on it.

At the same time Boris Fedorov, the new vice premier responsible for financial and economic questions in the

government, believes that someone simply tricked Chernomyrdin by cunningly slipping him the old draft to sign (Fedorov himself was in Washington at the end of last year). In his words, this document was actually prepared before Chernomyrdin came to power but was devised within the Committee for Prices where people were used to drawing up regulations of this kind. The draft was not even examined by the previous government.

The decree, Fedorov stated, is not only erroneous but also simply impracticable. In no way does it reflect the government's general course in economic policy and must be revised.

Fedorov intends continuing the program of urgent measures which, if successfully implemented, do not promise paradise on earth but will help to stabilize the situation in the economy. He refused to give details of his program before it is discussed by the government but he did set out a few general thoughts on the key questions of economic policy. The circulating capital of enterprises must not be index linked. Individual subsidies are possible, Fedorov believes, but on condition that they are worked out and validated. Unless they promise a clear economic benefit, it would be better to use this money not to rescue lame-duck enterprises but to meet social needs. The economy for the sake of people not for the sake of production—that is the essence of the social thrust of the reforms.

The vice premier also advocated preserving the single rate of the ruble against hard currencies. Speaking of the need to stabilize the ruble Fedorov noted that there are specific individuals to blame for the swamping of the economy with worthless money and consequently for the sharp rise in prices, and these people must be named. Each power structure must deal with its own functional duties and be accountable for its work. The Central Bank, the vice premier believes, must stop saying that it needs to support production and do what it is directly responsible for—strengthening the national currency.

It will probably become clear in the very near future whether the sensational decree on the state regulation of prices is in line with the government's general course or not. Fedorov himself still has to establish that fact. Money policy is one of the clearest indicators of the government's general course. If enterprises begin receiving a flood of subsidies and preferential credits, the market will have to be forgotten for a while. In addition, the development of events in any of these areas will show the true influence on economic policy of the reformers who remained in the government and of Boris Fedorov's appearance there.

Economics Institute Chief Supports State Price Control

LD1401121093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0916
GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Petr Tsyrendorzhiev]

[Text] Ulan-Ude January 14 TASS—Director of the Economics Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences Leonid Abalkin supports the decision of the government to restore control over prices for basic foodstuffs and goods, but believes the U-turn towards the old communist system of management is impossible.

Addressing a seminar in Buryatia, he said the decision on price control was caused by objective reality.

Abalkin stressed that the Russian Government is in a difficult situation and "if it manages to preserve the oil and gas complex this would be a success of (Prime Minister) Viktor Chernomyrdin".

He spoke in favour of slow market reforms and added that any attempts to quickly create the middle class of proprietors in Russia, who would become the basis of stability, is destined to failure. However, he said he supports all forms of property.

Abalkin believes that it is only "balanced, consequent and phased reforms implemented during a certain period of time" can restore the trust of the Russian people to the state and government.

Bank Chairman Gerashchenko Discusses Economic Reforms

MK1401092593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with Viktor Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, by Artem Zaytsev under "Prospect" rubric; place and date not given: "Inflation Cannot Be Conquered Without Restraining Incomes and Prices. Viktor Gerashchenko's Own Opinion"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko spoke on the penultimate day of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, at a time when there was the greatest uncertainty in solving the key question concerning the head of government. That is possibly why his speech could not be detailed and was merely confined to the most painful theme of the latest crisis in payment and settlement relationships.

The involuntary omission merely heightens interest in the views of the country's chief banker on the problems of reform as a whole. Especially now that the new premier is introducing regulated prices for certain categories of goods (see NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA No. 2 of 6 January 1993).

[Zaytsev] The past year can be called "the year of the tumbling ruble," which depreciated tens and hundreds of times before our very eyes. Many people completely stopped counting the national currency as money. In this context how can you, Viktor Vladimirovich, reassure your fellow citizens in the coming year?

[Gerashchenko] Unfortunately I am unable to tell them anything sufficiently comforting. In the short term at any

rate. The year 1993 inherits the very heavy burden of financial problems from last year. And worse still—the trend toward their deterioration is far from over.

[Zaytsev] The reform is already one year old. The Central Bank has for six months had a new leadership headed by you. Not a particularly long time, but nonetheless a considerable time in which a change for the better in the state of the finances could have been expected.

[Gerashchenko] In order to find out why this is not taking place it is important to understand the stage of reform we are now at and which of its main tasks have been fulfilled or, on the contrary, have been fouled up.

A year ago we decided to leap across the abyss and we are now in midflight over it, as it were. If we start playing in silence and we do not analyze rigorously and frankly what we have or have not achieved, 1993 could prove to be the last year of this flight, in which we do not reach the opposite bank. Meanwhile, for reasons of a political nature and the lack of desire to give rein to the latest "investigation" at the top, such an analysis, which is essential to society, has not taken place.

[Zaytsev] How would you evaluate what has been done over the year? For example, price liberalization, which was the main event in the economy.

[Gerashchenko] The structural reorganization of prices by letting them float freely, as was planned, did not materialize. Not because of some evil intent but because the psychology of the actual producers of goods and services was not taken into account. In our country these are almost exclusively state enterprises, and operating in monopoly conditions, moreover. In covering all their costs they have simply driven up prices and, accordingly, inflation. And heaven forbid that they create even the smallest reserves for investments in doing so.

[Zaytsev] Have many of them not inflated prices with a view to putting by the money thus gained for the impending privatization?

[Gerashchenko] This factor has undoubtedly come into play. Although on the whole there is nothing bad about the desire to accumulate resources for privatization. People have started adapting to the new rules of the game and are increasingly treating money as a measure of worth and as capital. At the same time the image of a capitalist as a man who just cuts coupons and eats caviar is disappearing. He is now associated with earning a lot, multiplying not only his personal but also his social wealth. And frequently enduring a terrible fiasco, having been unable to predict the economic situation.

[Zaytsev] Maybe it is during the coming mass privatization that a radical turning point is destined to occur?

[Gerashchenko] If everything is staked on this second part of reform we could end up in a much more complex situation. It would be an ever bigger mistake to issue shares in enterprises in monopolism conditions without

having the chance to create competition—including by means of imports on account of the lamentable state of the balance of payments. It will become totally impossible to influence the key cost proportions in the national economy. And all the more doubtful that it will be possible to suppress inflation.

[Zaytsev] In that case what is the solution?

[Gerashchenko] Once we draw the conclusion that the "shock" reform of prices has not changed their structure, what immediately arises is the question of the importance of monetary policy in our desire to make the mass of goods and services being produced equal to the mass of money. It should not be hoped that voucherization and privatization will solve the problem. On the contrary, they could generate new troubles, although these measures are indisputable from the viewpoint of the strategy of developing ownership relations.

But in the near future, over a certain period of time—this winter, for instance—I think it is nonetheless necessary to proceed toward a certain, maybe voluntary, freeze on incomes and on the prices of a number of goods, and toward their regulation.

It is necessary to bring down the speculative constituent of inflation. A three- to four-month price freeze will give people confidence that they will not increase and that there is therefore no need to put by reserves. Only in this way is it possible to stop the consumer panic-buying which clears stores of goods and plays into the hands of monopoly producers, for which it is a veritable El Dorado.

Of course, the Savings Bank's policy must be reinforced simultaneously, so that the population knows that it will receive fairly high interest on its deposits, which will be adjusted monthly and quarterly. Thereby tying up the population's incomes and diverting from the consumer market the loss-making monetary mass, channeling it into investment and lending in priority spheres.

[Zaytsev] Which ones specifically?

[Gerashchenko] More differentiated approaches are required in investment and credit policy. It is necessary to create privileges for producers—state, joint-stock, and private—bearing in mind above all the production of goods and essential services. While in the strategic context a favorable international climate enables us to concentrate on sectors of the economy that are not traditional for us by withdrawing from military and heavy industry, except, naturally, that associated with energy production. If the executive branch continues to prove its worth in pursuing these priorities rather than in dividing resources on a regional basis....

[Zaytsev] Nevertheless a decisive factor in the implementation of your idea will, I think, be the reaction of the population, which will hardly be ecstatic about an income freeze, albeit a temporary one. Obviously,

greater compensation than merely increasing the interest rate on deposits will be required.

[Gerashchenko] The main source and regulator of incomes must be more productive labor. We will have to go through a period of the greater gradation of wages depending on people's capacity to work hard. A wage—whether it be at a plant, trading firm, or restaurant—should be tied to completing or fulfilling the task of the hirer, as in the West, irrespective of the enterprise's form of ownership.

What must mainly encourage people to work efficiently and earn more is the desire to own a comfortable private dwelling, because this is the boon which is possibly the greatest thing our people have been deprived of. Housing privatization in its present form is scarcely sufficient. Thereby the concern for maintaining the housing stock is simply shifted from the state onto the population. What is needed is a housing market, which will bring everything else with it. A mortgage loan secured on property, as is practiced throughout the world, is needed to give this impetus. It is heartening that a number of banks are starting to do this.

[Zaytsev] Does the Central Bank have enough levers of influence on all these processes? Generally speaking, to what extent is it constrained by parliament's or the government's tutelage and to what extent is it independent in its own policy?

[Gerashchenko] I still believe that in our conditions the Central Bank should be accountable to the Supreme Soviet. But the Central Bank of Russia will not be able to do anything on its own. It is capable of actively influencing economic processes only if the state's economic policy as a whole has been correctly determined and the main cost proportions have been correctly compiled. Without this it is difficult to implement credit and monetary policy, not forgetting the other aims that any central bank has, including the national currency's purchasing power, with the corresponding influence on the level of inflation, real incomes, and so on.

[Zaytsev] A number of banks now wish to become firmly established not only in the market but also in the public's eyes as virtually the country's national property and to obtain the corresponding state support. What is your attitude toward this and the obvious problem of rationalizing the banking system? For instance, toward merging and amalgamating the inordinate number of small banks that have sprung up?

[Gerashchenko] I believe the attention banks are demanding from the state is justified. They are the first to see problems in the economy, and they have the first word here. Let them speak more actively, corporately if you will, in the form of financial associations or groups. There can be no market without a normal banking service. A period of active banking growth and capital accumulation lies ahead. On the whole banks will meet with understanding from the Central Bank of Russia leadership, although it has plenty of its own problems.

So, greater intercommunication in raising questions and lobbying the government and parliament is needed.

As regards the amalgamation of banks, there is an objective need to increase the level of their capitalization. But not in order to squeeze someone out. It is simply that much greater financial resources are needed to solve our enormous problems. The accumulation of banks' capital will happen in any event, which means that the weakest of them will be swallowed up. The strongest and most viable will remain. I do not see anything bad in that.

Moscow To Sell Energy Within CIS at World Prices

OW1301135193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1207 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] By decision of the Russian Government, as of January 1, 1993, Russia will be selling the output of its oil and gas refineries to the CIS countries, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the Baltic states at world prices converted from U.S. dollars into rubles on the basis of a special exchange rate, which for the first quarter of the year has been set at 425 rubles to a dollar.

Thus, Russia will be selling petrol at a price of 85,000 rubles a ton, diesel oil at 68,000 rubles, and fuel oil at 34,000 rubles. Customers within Russia at present pay one half or one third of that amount.

World prices will, however, be paid only by those republics of the former Soviet Union with which Russia does not have inter-governmental agreements establishing special price levels.

Last year, Russia sold to other ex-Soviet republics some 88 million tons of oil, 109 billion cubic meters of natural gas, 4.3 million tons of petrol, 5.7 million tons of diesel fuel, and 5.9 million tons of residual oil.

Tax Official Says New Taxes To Stimulate Business

LD1401061993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1457 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan—The amendments to the laws on taxation adopted by the Russian parliament late in 1992 are aimed primarily at stimulating entrepreneurial activity and expanding production, Vladimir Pankov, the first deputy head of the State Taxation Service, has said. In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he said that as of 1 January 1993, enterprises in all branches of the economy have been freed from taxes on the money they channel into investment or that they spend on expansion and renovation of production capacities. Also, the value-added tax [VAT] is going to be reduced in the current year. Instead of a single VAT at 28

percent, a 10 percent VAT for food and children's goods is being introduced, while for all other goods VAT will be 20 percent. At the same time, a value-added tax on imported goods is being introduced as of 1 February 1993. Earlier they were not liable for this tax. It will amount to 20 percent and will be levied during customs registration. Exceptions will be made for food and children's goods, which will be taxed at 10 percent. These amendments have been introduced because deficiencies in tax-related legislation made it possible for some citizens to evade taxation without violating the law directly, Vladimir Pankov said. According to the deputy director of the tax service, examples of this kind of malpractice are numerous. Changes have also been made in the taxation of individuals. Vladimir Pankov said that according to preliminary estimates, about 10 million Russian citizens will complete income declarations this year. This is now mandatory for every Russian national whose total annual income from various sources exceeds 200,000 rubles.

Media & Other Issues

Yeltsin Says 'No One Can Encroach' on Freedom of Press

OW1301152293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has congratulated journalists and the other mass media personnel with the Day of the Russian Press. In his congratulatory message, which was released by the presidential press service, he says that the press had a major role to play in the downfall of the totalitarian communist system of the former Soviet Union. The democratically oriented journalists were in the ranks of the freedom fighters, siding with those who prevented the reactionary coup attempt in August 1991.

"No one can encroach on the freedom of the Russian press, which is the bulwark of democratic rights and freedoms for the people in our reviving pluralistic society," the Russian President assured.

Boris Yeltsin extended to all the journalists his heartfelt wishes of success, courage and perseverance in upholding the democratic ideals.

Lawmakers To Discuss Future of Federal Information Center

LD1301131893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow January 13 TASS—The Chamber of Nationalities of the Russian Parliament will discuss whether the Federal Information Centre, created by

President Boris Yeltsin and headed by Mikhail Poltoranin, is necessary, according to a decision of lawmakers adopted on Wednesday.

Lawmakers who suggested to include the item in the agenda said the creation of the centre gives advantages to the president and the government over the parliament in interaction with mass media.

The issue will be first discussed in corresponding parliamentary committees and commissions. [passage omitted]

Press Minister Fedotov on FIC, Ministry Functions

MK1301160193 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 7

[Interview with Press Minister Mikhail Fedotov by Vladimir Nazarov; place and date not given: "Our Minister"—first six paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] In the bar of the Central Journalist's House a fairly topical piece of news was being discussed—the appointment of Russia's new press minister. With the wisdom of experience gleaned from hundreds of thousands of pieces of material, the newspaper wolves made the following comment with good-natured bewilderment: "Whether Poltoranin was good or bad is a matter of taste, but he was our man, guys. Whose idea was it to appoint the law professor Mikhail Fedotov minister of the press?" Then I took my chance to speak (with this audience you take, you're not asked) and said: Esteemed ladies and gentlemen (I naturally am conveying the essence, not the terminology), you are mistaken, our new minister is our minister.

That is the truth, pure and simple: Fedotov worked as a reporter. I don't rule out the idea that he may have gone into science because he found journalism a stale profession. I have been acquainted with him for 25 years (terrible as it is to say!). I remember he appeared quite a "greenhorn" at VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA. He wrote quite intelligent commentaries, he had a feeling for the subject. I didn't know then that journalism was forced upon him—as a student Fedotov was kicked out of the day department of Moscow State University. Not for bad marks, but for overly close relations with dissidents and human rights defenders. Two years in the VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA information department constitutes a quite considerable training period. Fedotov worked for another two editorial offices before embarking on post-graduate studies. As a reporter he had failed to reach the heights of Zakharko, Illesh, Tserkover, Chertkov, or Mostovshchikov Jr., but not everyone can do that.

And Fedotov the journalist had no major prospects either. He was a nonparty man! He never tried to join the CPSU. "There was always a line to join the party and I cannot stand lines," he would say to me later. What a stance! He was after all perfectly well aware that a nonparty journalist is worse than a Jew....

I beg the reader's pardon for addressing a member of the government in a familiar fashion during this interview—it is not a case of a hail-fellow-well-met attitude, or a desire to demonstrate my closeness to the powerful men of this world—but I have never spoken to him in any other way. And Fedotov is not like Lenin in character; as you know, the latter, after ascending the throne, asked his old friends, including Krupskaya, it seems, to use the formal mode of address.

Fedotov's appointment as minister does not go beyond the bounds of logic. He was not only a professor at a higher educational establishment but also a fairly well-known public figure. He sided with the president in the Constitutional Court over the CPSU case, and he ran for election to this court but was rejected by the people's representatives—who would approve a man nominated for the post...by "Democratic Russia". Although legally speaking he has nothing to do with this movement. He explains: "By conviction I am a nonparty man." He spent a long period as deputy minister of the press and then took charge of the former Copyright Protection Agency. It was only after this considerable "running in" period that he became a minister.

I was interested in the mechanics of how people are appointed to ministerial posts. How does this happen now?

[Fedotov] Roughly a week before the president's edict, I received a telephone call and was told that my candidacy, among others, was being considered. I said that I was not accustomed to wearing the shoes and sitting in the offices of dead friends. Then came a call from Yeltsin's apparatus and I heard that "There is an opinion".... I then had a very long and very good discussion with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin. That's all there is to it.

[Nazarov] You were, all the same, persuaded to step into Poltoranin's shoes. That's not the only thing you share now. No one can really understand how many press ministries we have at the moment. Is it two? How have you divided up spheres of influence with Mikhail Nikiforovich?

[Fedotov] Very easily. Poltoranin is in charge of the Russian Federal Information Center [FIC]—a coordinating and analysis organization—whose main task is to create and analyze information. We are an organ of state management. Our task is to ensure that everyone, the FIC included, implements the Law on the Mass Media. If Poltoranin's "office" makes any moves to violate the legal interests of the mass media, the ministry will immediately put up a fight....

[Nazarov] I share the suspicions harbored by many of our colleagues that Poltoranin enjoys the president's unquestioning trust and is trying to cling to his existing power. And that the ministry will simply be a registration office, excuse my bluntness, a piece of fiction....

[Fedotov] I state categorically that these suspicions are totally unfounded. Poltoranin's department will not usurp a single one of the ministry's functions. We quite simply have different tasks, not even parallel tasks.

[Nazarov] As far as one can see from the edict and the commentaries on it, the FIC will have considerable influence over the activity of radio, television, ITAR-TASS....

[Fedotov] "Influence" is a very accurate word. The FIC will be able to influence these organizations in a delicate, gentle way. But it will be unable to interfere with the editorial collectives' professional autonomy—that would be a gross breach of the law.

[Nazarov] For the moment you have convinced me. But we shall wait and see. Let us move on to the Ministry of Press and Information. What is its main function?

[Fedotov] To be brief—to provide legal, economic, and organizational protection for the press and publishing and printing enterprises. Unlike former party agitation and propaganda bodies, it is not engaged in ideological management.

[Nazarov] What kind of levers do you have?

[Fedotov] We have one lever—the law. It is our task to—and we will see to it—that the laws are implemented in punctilious fashion. We will declare a determined war on a nihilistic attitude toward the laws.

[Nazarov] What practical form will this take?

[Fedotov] Here is a very simple example. If a newspaper comes out without publication particulars, incomplete particulars, or particulars known to be false, it is fined—the fine is imposed not on the organization but on a specific individual—the editor, publisher, or distributor. A court may pass a ruling that the print run be confiscated.

[Nazarov] What if any newspaper, TUSHINSKAYA GLASNOST or DEN SOVETSKOY PRAVDY say, calls for the forcible overthrow of the existing authorities, for civil disobedience....

[Fedotov] First it will be given an official warning, then we will raise the issue of suspending production of this publication. Any offenses will be resolutely suppressed. But within the framework of the law. Publications that publish announcements regarding the provision of sexual services will be liable to serious penalties. And foul language is often used in newspapers now. The former is a question of pimping, the second is a matter of hooliganism, a breach of public order. It would do no harm for every editor to read the Criminal Code, the Code on Administrative Offenses. They should realize that censorship is prohibited in our country, but that does not mean that unprintable language is allowed.

It is well-known that many of our troubles are linked with the wild upsurge in organized crime. Many publications that regularly violate the laws are in one way or another connected with organized crime—with the shadow economy, shady business, racketeering, and so on.

[Nazarov] Name those publications....

[Fedotov] I am a lawyer and presumption of innocence is a hallowed principle for me. But I do have definite information and I don't want to conceal my intentions: We will wage war on crime. One of my first orders was to appoint as the minister's adviser on a voluntary basis the well-known investigator Yevgeniy Nikolayevich Myslovskiy, president of the Antimafia Foundation, a man who is fanatically committed to the fight against crime.

[Nazarov] It would be more opportune for other ministries—the ministries of security or internal affairs...—to declare a crusade against the mafia.

[Fedotov] Each of us should keep his own house in order. My house is the sphere of the press. And it must be kept in order without fail. I ask the leaders of the mass media to remember that they can lose their licenses for serious offenses, and without a license a publisher cannot approach a printing house and a television and radio company loses the right to airtime....

[Nazarov] Does the court take away licenses?

[Fedotov] No, the issuing body. Publishing houses receive their license from us; radio and television personnel receive theirs from the commission set up on an equal footing by the Ministries of Communications and the Press.

[Nazarov] That is a considerable lever.

[Fedotov] It cannot be otherwise. In our country, regrettably, freedom of the press is not backed up by the culture of press freedom. I want editors, publishers, and printers to hear my appeal: "It is not obligatory for us to live a very harmonious life. We can have different political views—please do. But we must all observe the law...."

[Nazarov] Here is a question that is of interest to all our colleagues without exception—the question of state subsidies. Will there be state subsidies this year?

[Fedotov] There will. The president's 1993 budget statement mentioned this outright. But you are wrong to think that this question concerns everyone. The collectives of commercial or erotic publications may not worry at all.

[Nazarov] Who can count on receiving the maximum favor?

[Fedotov] Publications for children, invalids, publications designed to preserve culture, science, and education.... I hope that I don't need to explain why....

[Nazarov] What about sociopolitical publications?

[Fedotov] Do you want my opinion as a human being? I am convinced that we should not support all newspapers and journals without exception. There is not enough money to go around. There must be natural selection: Some will survive, some will perish. Does any country really possess this many national newspapers?

[Nazarov] The position of Fedotov the man is clear. What does Fedotov the minister think about this?

[Fedotov] You want too much of me. I have been minister for just five days. I would like to set up associations—of editors, publishers, and print workers. Let them formulate their proposals. We will invariably consult with the Supreme Soviet's commissions and committees.

[Nazarov] All power to the Soviets?

[Fedotov] Everyone benefits from useful counsel.

[Nazarov] Will you support private publications. People are saying that a Greek has bought some newspaper. A swindler is publishing one newspaper (I have heard) and blatantly "laundering" CPSU money. Will you also put them on the receiving end of your subsidies?

[Fedotov] I cannot say anything at the moment.

[Nazarov] Next: You often panic. Oh, PRAVDA cannot pay the printing house, let us take it sacks of money. For me, too, it is a national relic akin to Brezhnev's hero's stars.

And—I don't know whether you see the crooked maneuverings of certain editors. They understate the subscription price, set up enormous print runs, and don't worry about it: Their native land will come to the rescue. To a man they see future subsidies as wages. Is that fair?

[Fedotov] No, it isn't. But I don't want to develop the subject until the ministry has determined its position once and for all.

[Nazarov] Didn't you think that the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet were trying to take the press in hand and considering that they ought to adopt a new law?

[Fedotov] That won't happen. Most parliamentarians are reasonable people. The Congress managed to stop on the brink of the precipice.

[Nazarov] How do you view the independent press?

[Fedotov] The press should be independent. If a newspaper is the mouthpiece of the first, second, or third estate, how can it be called the fourth estate?

[Nazarov] What do you want to say to your colleagues (us, not the ministers) on their professional holiday.

[Fedotov] Dear colleagues, let us respect and implement the law.

Communications System for State Services To Be Created

PM1301181593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Report from roundup of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS reports: "For Communications To Be More Reliable"]

[Text] A unified system of information and communications assistance for open communications channels of the Russian Federation organs of state power and management is being created.

The technical backup for the unified system of information and communications assistance should be completed no later than April this year.

'Molnia-1' Communications Satellite Launched 13 Jan

LD1401092293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—One more "Molnia-1" communication satellite was launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome on Wednesday [13 January]. It is intended to ensure the operation of the distant telephone, telegraph and radio system, and also to transmit telecasts to points on the "Orbita" network.

The Sputnik was placed by means of a "Molnia" carrier-rocket on a highly elliptical orbit with an apogee of 40,609 kilometres in the northern hemisphere and a perigee of 647 kilometres in the southern hemisphere. The Sputnik's revolution around Earth will take 12 hours 15 minutes. It has an orbital inclination of 63 degrees.

Supreme Soviet

Filatov Warns of Khasbulatov Dictatorship

LD1401102193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0958 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—Sergey Filatov, the outgoing first deputy speaker of the Russian Parliament who was recently appointed head of the presidential staff, warned that dictatorship can come to Russia in the face of Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

The Presidium of the Russian Parliament and its chairman is a "monster" dominating the parliament which can seize unlimited powers despite all laws and regulations, Filatov told the "ROSSIYA" weekly on Thursday [14 January].

"While we are looking around, thinking where the dictatorship can come from, it is growing here as the accumulation of powers in the Supreme Soviet (parliament) is the accumulation of powers in the hands of its chairman", he explained.

"There is the Supreme Soviet, but there is also the administrative superstructure in the face of the chairman and his deputies..." he added.

Khasbulatov is "a bright and talented man. But he is intolerable to a different opinion, rude and vindictive. All these (qualities) strengthen while striving for power", Filatov said.

[Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 13 January adds the following: "Sergey Filatov, administration head of the Russian president, is warning yet again of the danger of an increase in dictatorship at the heart of the Russian parliament.

"In an interview for the ROSSIYA weekly, the former first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet claims that virtually uncontrollable power is now being concentrated in the administrative structures of parliament. For some 300 deputies, there are 1,500 officials who work for the chairman and his deputies, but not for members of the Supreme Soviet."]

Supreme Soviet Reportedly To Drop FRY Sanctions

LD1301173293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1557 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Jan (TANJUG)—A delegation of Russian parliamentarians visiting Belgrade have expressed the firm belief that Russia's Supreme Soviet will decide to drop its sanctions against Yugoslavia as early as next Sunday, when a debate on the Yugoslav crisis is expected to take place.

"The decision to uphold the sanctions has been rejected by the Russian people. There is not a single people's deputy who believes that this decision is fair." This was stated by Vladimir Bryukovskiy, head of the delegation and adviser to the government of the Russian Federation, in the course of his talks with Zoran Bingu-lac, vice president of the Executive Council of the Belgrade Assembly.

Vladimir Mukuayov, member of the Supreme Soviet and a well-known journalist, stressed that Russia is subject to the government's absolute monopoly over the radio waves, which prevent objective information from Serbia and about the Serbs from breaking through.

He added that Western powers pay the leadership of television companies hard currency in the form of advertising to disseminate adequate information.

Their host, Bingu-lac, concluded that Western forces have managed not only to influence public opinion in

smaller countries but to block the information system of a country as large as Russia.

The delegation members stressed that they talked yesterday with representatives of the "Karic Brother" Company, who had invited them to Yugoslavia, about ways of improving economic cooperation, and offered Yugoslavia aid in fuel and power supplies.

At the end of the talks, hosts and guests wished the Serbian and Montenegrin people a happy Orthodox new year.

The delegation of Russian parliamentarians included other respectable businessmen and politicians Mikhail Guberman, Vitaliy Kuzmin, Vladimir Maslin, and Yuriy Glaskov, a cosmonaut and two-time hero of the USSR.

Presidium Holds 11 Jan Session

PM1301174793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium was held 11 January in the House of Soviets under the chairmanship of R.I. Khasbulatov.

R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, delivered a report on the visit by an official parliamentary delegation to Jordan, Israel, and Egypt.

In accordance with parliamentary procedure the following draft laws were submitted:

- "On Communications";
- "On Taxation Policy" (and also the draft provision "on service in the tax police—a special law enforcement organ within the Russian Federation State Tax Service");;
- "On the charge for using the names 'Russia' and 'Russian Federation' and words and combinations of words formed on their basis";
- "On the introduction of changes and additions to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Law 'on the kray and oblast soviet of people's deputies and the kray and oblast administration'";

and the following Russian Federation Supreme Soviet draft decrees:

- "On introducing changes to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 27 December 1991 decree 'on the procedure for putting into operation the Russian Federation law 'on the basic principles of the Taxation System in the Russian Federation'";
- "On the Supreme Soviet's estimated expenditure for 1993";

- "On the expenditure of the Russian federal property foundation for 1993";
- "On the estimated expenditure of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the maintenance of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet institute of legislation and comparative jurisprudence";
- "On the approval of the estimated expenditure of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's journal NARODNYY DEPUTAT";
- "On measures to ensure the holding of the all-Russian referendum 11 April 1993";
- "On the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's supreme council of legal experts."

With a view to strengthening the independence of legal power, improving its activity and establishing guarantees of the social protection of its workers, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a decree "on putting in order the remuneration of workers in the legal power organs."

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium also examined other questions of the republic's state life.

Baburin Motions for Withdrawal of Russian Ships From Gulf

LD1401110493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019
GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—On Deputy Sergey Baburin's motion, the question of withdrawing Russian warships from the Persian Gulf in order to prevent their involvement in a possible regional conflict, has been included in the agenda of the sixth session of the Russian Supreme Soviet. This was decided today during the first joint meeting of the two chambers of the Russian Parliament.

The deputies have also expressed their desire to study the text of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's statement in Stockholm and Eduard Shevardnadze's appeal to the United Nations of December 25, made during the incident with a Russian warplane, shot down by the Georgians, and also to hear a report on the Foreign Ministry's stand in this connection.

Included in the agenda also was an additional item to ask Russian Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov to inform the session on the fulfillment of the decision of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies to investigate the events of December 10, when President Yeltsin appealed to the people.

The session plans to amend the press law in order to make journalists more answerable for the publication of false and unchecked information. Since Deputy

Vyacheslav Bragin, who headed the parliamentary Mass Media Committee, was recently appointed director of the "Ostankino" TV Company, a new committee chairman will be elected to fill the vacancy. The Supreme Soviet will also discuss the possibility of structurally reorganising its mass media committee.

Government To Present Report on Economic Reform

OW1401125893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1225
GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the discussion of the January agenda on Thursday [14 January], the Russian parliament resolved that on Friday, the government present a report on the implementation of the resolutions of the 7th Congress of People's Deputies pertaining to the economic reforms. The idea was advanced by a member of the Russian Unity opposition alliance, Gennadiy Sayenko. Having backed this idea, the parliament's chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov instructed his deputy Nikolay Ryabov to coordinate with the government the time for submitting to the parliament candidacies to the posts of the ministers of defence, security, the interior and foreign affairs.

The parliament also supported another member of the Russian Unity alliance, Sergey Baburin, who proposed that the Russian defence minister present information about the expediency of the Russian warships' further stay in the Persian Gulf.

The deputies also backed the Russian Unity's member Vladimir Isakov, who proposed that the parliament listen to the procurator-general's report on the events of December 10, 1992, when the president appealed to the nation during the 7th Congress of People's Deputies. Isakov said that his proposal was prompted by the interview, given to the newspaper ROSSKYSKAYA GAZETA by head of the Federal Information Service Mikhail Poltoranin, in which he said that "he prevented a state coup on December 10" and attacked chairman of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov. Commenting on Isakov's proposal, Ruslan Khasbulatov urged the deputies "to get adjusted to the increasingly aggressive attacks on the parliament's chairman". He also expressed the opinion that "someone must be watching through a spyglass what the chairman of the parliament is doing". "If anything illegal had been noticed, the chairman would have found himself behind prison bars a long time ago," he added. "Now what if we start investigating the activity of the senior government officials?" Khasbulatov asked. "Perhaps we should close down this agency (the Federal Information Service), stop financing it and instruct lawyers to work on the problem," he suggested.

Presidium Nullifies North Ossetian Decisions*OW1301210093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1951
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet declared ineffective a decision from the North Ossetian Supreme Council to repeal the resolution made at Russia's Seventh Congress of People's Deputies "On Measures for the Settlement of the Armed Conflict on the Territory of the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ingush Republic." Presidium member Vladimir Podoprygora announced this to INTERFAX after the Presidium's closed session, which was urgently called Wednesday. The deputy said the North Ossetian Supreme Council's decision to form a national guard was also repealed.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium plans to contest these decisions of North Ossetia's highest body in the Constitutional Court.

Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhrai appeared before the Presidium with information on this issue.

The resolution from the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies commissioned North Ossetian organs of state power and administration, the administration of the Ingush Republic, and the temporary administration on the territory of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic to ensure that weapons be seized from the population and that armed formations be disarmed.

Khasbulatov Says Fighting Crime 'Top Priority'*LD1401092793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in
Russian 0826 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[By parliamentary ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow 14 Jan—Approximately 250 issues are to be examined by the sixth session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, which will last until the end of June, parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov said today, opening the first joint sitting of the chambers.

Laws and resolutions providing the legislative basis for strengthening the fight against the crime that is engulfing the whole country must take top priority in the immediate future. "If there is anything that can deflect us from the path of reforms, it is crime, which today has virtually declared war on the state," stressed the parliamentary speaker. He proposed that a week of the Supreme Soviet's work be devoted to debating this problem, "setting aside all other matters in order fully to ensure the legislative basis, among other things with the aim of toughening the fight against crime."

There is serious work to be done to prepare the draft of the new Constitution, including the issue of the referendum on its main provisions, the Supreme Soviet

chairman stressed. "We intend to implement precisely the decision of the Congress on these matters," he noted.

Khasbulatov Suggests Closing Federal Information Center*LD1401112793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in
Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] The RIA Agency has reported that Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov has suggested that the possibility of closing down the Federal Information Center should be examined.

This statement by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet was in response to a proposal by People's Deputy Vladimir Isakov—one of the leaders of the opposition parliamentary bloc Russian Unity—to listen to Procurator General Valentin Stepankov's report on the execution of instructions issued by the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies to investigate the events of 10 December, when Russian President Yeltsin appealed to the people.

According to Isakov his proposal was prompted by his bewilderment at an interview given by [Federal Information Center head] Mikhail Poltoranin to the UNITA newspaper, reprinted in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on 14 January. The interview is entitled: I saved President Yeltsin from a new coup d'etat.

Parliament Not To Approve '93 Industrial Complex Budget*OW1301223093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1511
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament will not approve the 1993 budget for the industrial complex as it is presented in the president's budget message, because the spending items envisaged in it are neither specified, nor dovetail with state programs, Chairman of the parliament's Committee for Industry and Power Engineering Alvin Yermyn told INTERFAX.

Yermyn said that at the request of this parliamentary committee, Vice-Premier Georgiy Khizha will hold a series of working meetings this week to specify individual provisions of the budget message.

He also said that on Tuesday, he met with leaders of the finance and economics ministries to ensure that they draft budget messages in more detail. He noted that the parliament-adopted law on the supply of industrial products for state needs is not implemented fully, because the Economics Ministry has not yet developed any mechanism for its implementation.

To quote Yeryomyn, Vice-Premier Georgiy Khizha, Finance Minister Vassily Barchuk, Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev and other members of the Cabinet have

been invited to attend a series of parliamentary hearings on the budget message, scheduled for the next week.

On Monday at 10:00, parliamentary hearings on drafting the budget for the industrial complex will be held in the parliament building's Blue Hall. On Tuesday, the hearings will be devoted to financing the textile and light industries, and on Friday - the fuel and energy complex.

Decree Introduces Controls on Bread Prices

PM1201172793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 93 First Edition p 5

["Decree of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the State Regulation of Prices of Bread and Bread Products and Measures To Form Federal and Regional Grain Funds" signed by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov and dated Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 17 December 1992. No. 4124-1]

[Text] With a view to stabilizing the level of prices of bread and bread products, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. State control over the pricing of bread is established, and, moreover, in the first quarter of 1993 is to be based on a purchase price for grain for bread production of 12,000 rubles per tonne.

2. The difference between the actual prices of grain purchased for state resources (both imported and home-grown) for the manufacture of flour and the fixed price is to be compensated from federal budget funds. With this aim in mind provision is to be made in the budget for 1993 for funds to compensate for the difference between the fixed price of grain used for flour production and the purchase prices.

3. The Russian Federation Government:

—is to examine according to established procedures the question of determining the appropriate level of profitability for all grain reception, milling, and baking enterprises and of the trade markup on bread and bread products;

—is to determine urgent measures to supplement the federal and regional grain funds by purchasing grain within the country, and also measures to open and restore previously suspended credits granted by foreign states toward the purchase of grain;

—is to examine quarterly the state of the supply of bread and bread products to the population and the prevailing level of prices of them.

4. Governments of the republics within the Russian Federation and organs of executive power of krais, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are recommended to adopt extra measures to bring regional grain funds up to the necessary levels, and also to provide in territorial budgets for the necessary appropriations in

order to maintain the prices of bread and bread products at a level within the population's reach.

[Signed] Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov

Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 17 December 1992, No. 4124-1

Khasbulatov on Constitutionality of Referendum

PM1301152193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jan 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Ruslan Khasbulatov article: "The Congress of People's Deputies and Constitutional Reform"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies which ended recently was possibly one of the most difficult and tense congresses ever held. It was there that the Russian state, maybe for the first time in its history, approached the boundary where the former contradictions between the executive and the legislature, which were sharply and deliberately exacerbated, started threatening the very existence of the state system.

It is possible to refer to the experience of Western countries in which contradictions between the two branches of power are not such a rarity. However, in Russia, mechanisms of adaptation which would allow these contradictions to be localized have not yet been formulated. And in an era of crisis in practically all the public and state institutions, a conflict in any link of power spreads, whether it be quickly or slowly, to all the links of the state organism.

Furthermore, it is no secret to anyone that the population of a country relates to power in general with a large degree of mistrust, partly because the state system does not merely fail to stabilize social processes but, conversely, serves to strengthen their unpredictable nature. And the decree of the Seventh Congress "On the Stabilization of the Russian Federation Constitutional System" (despite all the flaws, of which mention will be made later) has essentially become an expression of the fact that a country cannot develop amid the settlement of one crisis after another, all caused by the spontaneous desire of the top officials to demonstrate their strength—often through powerlessness.

Of course, you cannot say that everyone considered this decision to be unquestionable. Many deputies and independent political scientists pointed out the violation of a number of procedures which regulate the adoption of documents of this type and which are of a constitutional nature. For example, the enactment of amendments in the form of the constitutional Law "On Changes and Addenda to the Russian Federation Constitution (Basic Law)", which were adopted at the Seventh Congress, was suspended; according to the president, these significantly restrict the powers of the executive (this concerns amendments to point 19 article 109, and to article 110, and articles 121-126 of the Constitution). In accordance

with established norms, these amendments were being adopted by a qualified majority of votes. The decree on the stabilization of the constitutional system, which constitutes amendments to the Constitution, should also have been adopted by two-thirds of the overall number of deputies.

You have to admit that other violations were also committed.

But this is just one side of the problem. There was also another side to it. I would remind you that the decree on the stabilization of the constitutional system was adopted precisely at a time when there was a need for at least a partial alleviation of the acuteness which had arisen unexpectedly as a result of the extreme instability of the sociopolitical aspect of the conflict: The top executive power rushed recklessly into the abyss, taking with it the whole of society. So it was not a question of "concessions" but of steps that provided at least an opportunity, albeit an imperfect one, for resolving this conflict.

Considerations of sociopolitical expediency outweighed considerations of compliance with constitutional law [pravosorazmernost]. This was an enforced act rather than a voluntary one, and indeed on both sides, although it is possible that it is not actually acknowledged by those who brought society to its tragic crisis, even in the shape of a farce. Judging by certain subsequent actions, some people really do not want to admit that the presidency was saved by the Congress.

The main aim of the decree was actually to try to include the same political processes within the constitutional framework, which could be destroyed in the event of a referendum being held on simultaneous confidence in the Congress and the Supreme Soviet on the one hand and the president on the other hand. The consequences of this are crystal clear: a fall in the president's authority, and then the collapse of the country (incidentally, de Gaulle was defeated as a result of an analogous issue being raised following the May events of 1969). It is clear that if such a referendum were to bear positive results for one organ or the other, this would mean an interruption in their execution of their constitutional commitments. In the first case we could expect an inevitable though short-term dictatorship, and in the second, inevitable anarchy. Both options would have a dramatic outcome for the state.

Undoubtedly, many people have focused on the fact that the decree on the stabilization of the constitutional system itself contains a provision on the need to hold a referendum. At the same time, some are continuing to express the wish that the question to be raised there should in point of fact be the question of confidence in either the executive or in the legislature. Others propose that a referendum on confidence in the two branches of power be held simultaneously. The Congress has unequivocally expressed its opinion on this issue, **having firmly established that no other referenda can be held on**

the day of the referendum on the basic provisions of the new Constitution or before it, that is, before 11 April 1993, or on 11 April.

Nevertheless, the worries of the broad public and many people's deputies can scarcely be called groundless. It is no secret that the appeal to the people is not being used to establish a new legal order or preserve the previous one, but for purely political reasons. Remember the referendum of 17 March 1991 for one. At that time it was clear that it was held not so much with the aim of strengthening the new Union as in order to hinder the departure from it primarily of the Baltic states, and also to oppose the Russian authorities, which had "stuck in the throat" of the Union bureaucracy, so to speak.

Today many people are worried that, for instance, if the referendum has positive results, this will mean new parliamentary elections. Obviously the point is not the elections themselves, but the fact that they will inevitably be accompanied by the discrediting of the representative power, and indeed of power in general, and the intensification of the crime situation—a sphere, incidentally, wherein the present executive has demonstrated its total bankruptcy.

This is particularly dangerous if you bear in mind that the masters of lies and disinformation were cynically and mockingly given the possibility of manipulating the truth.

All this means that we are being pushed willy-nilly toward the situation that we had managed to avoid by adopting the decree on the stabilization of the constitutional system. Indeed, Article 5 of the Basic Provisions of the draft Russian Federation Constitution, which have been submitted for the referendum, says that it is precisely "the Supreme Soviet that is the only representative and legislative organ of the Russian Federation operating permanently and comprising two chambers." On the basis of this provision, certain political groups are trying to stir up public opinion, channeling it toward the disbandment of the Congress and the reforming of the legislative organ. Immediately following the adoption of the principles of the constitutional structure, attempts might be made to persuade people (or rather deceive them!) that the Congress is not even suitable for adopting the Constitution and that this must be done by a "Constituent Assembly."

We must prepare for such a development of events, although it must be clear to everyone that these events are of a clearly marked anticonstitutional nature. The point is that only the Congress of People's Deputies, and no other organ or public organization, has the right to interpret the provisions of the principles of the constitutional structure, and indeed the norms of the Constitution themselves.

It seems that some people are trying to use the "conciliation commission"—which emerged in the process of overcoming the constitutional crisis at the Seventh Congress, but which does not correspond to the principle of the separation of powers—for purposes of interpreting

the results of the referendum. The sponsors of the new constitutional structure will scarcely retreat from the requirements of the old "Brezhnevist" Constitution if they need it for political rather than constitutional-law purposes. It is no secret to anyone that the same political circles that were sharply opposed to the Union referendum of March 1991, deeming it unacceptable from the standpoint of legal principles, are now insistently demanding the conducting of a referendum whose legal value is even more doubtful.

That fact alone casts doubt on the stance of the advocates of a referendum on a new Constitution, which they say would strengthen the constitutional system, stabilize the state system, and help overcome a permanently arising crisis of power. The opinion that the constitutional system is primarily the Constitution as a written act is fairly superficial. The constitutional system is the entire system of state and public institutions, and the Constitution is only one of its elements, it is the legislative basis of the system. The Constitution as the Basic Law is important primarily as a criterion of the legitimacy of the legislation being adopted and the activity of the executive and judicial powers.

Stabilization of the whole constitutional system occurs not because of the adoption or nonadoption of the Basic Law (let us recall that Great Britain does not have a constitution as a separately written act) but as a result of real political practice, where all the participants set themselves the aim of following all the rules—even those that are "inconvenient" to some of them. No one can guarantee that the new Constitution will be capable of resolving the problem of cooperation between the powers if this problem is rooted not in the legal status of a particular branch of power but in the impulsive, unpredictable behavior of the people who must execute this power.

Of course, you could point out that the constitutions of a number of states have contained a provision to the effect that the electorate could act as judges in disputes between the people's representation and the executive power. For instance, this provision was contained in Germany's Weimar Constitution and in the prewar Constitution of Czechoslovakia. But, on the other hand, relating to the referendum as one of the state institutions in contemporary science and political practice is by no means unequivocally positive. Even despite the fact that this institution, known back in the 15th century (the first referendum was held in Bern in 1499, it is believed, on the issue of the population's paying off a government war loan), is in itself very attractive. Its attractiveness consists primarily in the fact that the electorate resolves the fate of its own statehood by free will. But from this viewpoint, only questions that require a political solution and answers that go no further than the alternatives "yes" and "no" can be submitted to a referendum.

In Switzerland, rarely a year goes by without a referendum, either at federal or at canton level. And there is

no problem, the country does not undergo any upheavals—a centuries-old tradition is in operation.

Thus, the question of a particular state joining a union of states is a referendum issue. Examples of suchlike are common enough in history. In 1920, the majority of the population of Switzerland voted against joining the League of Nations. In 1992 a referendum was held in European countries about their joining a Europe united by the Maastricht Treaty.

Regional Affairs

Tatar Prime Minister Views Economic Ties With Moscow

OW1301133793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1208 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tatar Prime Minister Mukhamad Sabirov told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview that Tatarstan has completely paid its share of the Russian federal budget for 1992, and that the Russian Finance Ministry has no complaints to make. However, Sabirov declined to name the sum, since "the republics of the Russian Federation are at different levels of economic development, and making the figure public will not help stabilize the situation in the federation in general." This year Tatarstan is planning to produce about 20 million tons of crude oil, Sabirov said. Ten million of this amount will be exported, including two million which will be used to pay some of the debts of the Russian Federation. The revenues from the sale of the remaining eight million tons will be used to raise the oilmen's living standards and finance Tatarstan's ecological programs. Another seven million tons will be given to the Nizhnekamsk Petrochemical plant, which "is located on the territory of Tatarstan, but sends its output to Russia." Three and a half million tons will be processed into petrol and other oil products for Tatarstan at oil refineries in Russia. The remaining 4.5 million tons will be sent by Tatarstan to Russia.

Apart from that, Tatarstan, as before, will provide Russia with five billion kwh of electricity a year, if Moscow pays for the repair and reconstruction of Tatarstan's power stations.

Sabirov said Tatarstan needs to use a mere 15% of the capacity of its military industrial complex to satisfy its own needs. On instructions from Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Deputy Premier Georgiy Khizha is currently working on providing federal orders for Tatarstan's military industry. Otherwise some of the military enterprises will be either closed or converted, Sabirov said.

Tatarstan is prepared to give Russia 1.5 million tons of rye in exchange for the same quantity of wheat. These and some other matters may be reflected in a supplement

to a Tatar-Russian inter-governmental agreement, which will be signed on January 22 and will be valid for five years, Sabirov said.

Bashkortostan Seeks Economic Autonomy, Not Secession

PM1401102593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with Anatoliy Kopsov, chairman of the Bashkortostan Council of Ministers, by Valeriy Vedernikov: "Bashkortostan Council of Ministers Chairman Anatoliy Kopsov: 'Our Republic Is Not Intending To Secede From Russia'"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Vedernikov] What are your government's priority tasks? What is your evaluation of the economic situation in the republic?

[Kopsov] The economy, industry, and agriculture are in decline, as is the case in all other areas of the Russian Federation. In this sense Bashkiria is little different from the rest. Although the decline is not as great as in the country as a whole. This is confirmed by figures: The old government, headed by M. Mergaziyamov, did a great deal to ensure that the decline was not that steep. But since the deterioration in the situation has affected the whole country, it would be naive to suppose that, being in a single economic space, we would be able to avoid this fate.

The situation is critical in agriculture, particularly in livestock raising. In the past we produced on average 120,000-130,000 tonnes of meat per year; last year the figure was around 90,000. The same goes for milk. In the best years we would get 1-1.2 million tonnes; now it is 900,000. In industry the decline is plain to see. It has touched our republic economy's nerve—oil extraction and refining. Extraction fell by 10 percent in a year. Refining was correspondingly affected.

[Vedernikov] Anatoliy Yakovlevich, did the increase in energy source prices somehow compensate for the 10 percent cutback?

[Kopsov] No. But one must take a broader view of the situation. Oil extraction and refining should increase in any case. We have the potential. And clearly prices of energy sources will rise again soon. I do not think the new Russian Government can avoid this. There is no alternative, since the economy will stabilize only when prices of energy sources reach world levels. [passage omitted]

[Vedernikov] There is a "delicate" matter that cannot really be avoided, Anatoliy Yakovlevich. As is known, a decentralization process is taking place and the territories are looking for greater autonomy. How far can Bashkortostan reasonably expect to go in terms of "economic sovereignty"?

[Kopsov] The limits have to be established in each specific case. Often we are accused of creating objective prerequisites for secession from the Russian Federation by establishing our own form of economic sovereignty. There can be no question of secession! We are part of the Russian Federation and we have no mind to break away, to secede. Our sovereignty and our autonomy must be defined in terms of economic freedom.

The oblasts in Russia as well as the republics are coming to realize this. Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk, for example. The Russian Government too has started to realize that such a vast territory cannot be governed from Moscow. And if giving maximum autonomy to the provinces used to be a populist slogan, this principle is now assuming concrete form.

A draft treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bashkortostan is currently being studied. The work was difficult at first, a rough ride, evidently due to the lack of experience. Now practically all the key elements have been agreed and both sides are happy with them. So the signing is not a millions miles away. And, as is known, a treaty is priceless.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Cuts Israel Visit Short To Meet Yeltsin

*LD1301210793 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya
Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk met the press in the Israeli capital today and confirmed his intention to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on 15 January, as was announced earlier. Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Israel has reportedly been reduced to three days as a result. Kravchuk said that economic issues will be the main topic of the forthcoming meeting. However, a wide range of political issues on reducing nuclear weapons will also be examined.

Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Trip

*LD1301221493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2140
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demidenko and ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv January 14 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has completed his official three-day visit to Israel. Late on Wednesday [13 January] Kravchuk and his entourage left for Ukraine.

On Wednesday Kravchuk took part in a ceremony of inaugurating the Ukrainian embassy in Tel Aviv.

The Ukrainian president expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to Israel. Interstate agreements between the two countries have laid a reliable legal basis for a qualitatively new stage in the development of Ukrainian-Israeli relations.

A decision was adopted to set up a joint commission to monitor the implementation of the signed agreements.

Kravchuk described the establishment of business and human contacts with the Israeli leadership and representatives of local business circles as one of the main results of his visit to Israel.

Poland's Suchocka Urges Poles To Respect Statehood

*LD1301130993 Warsaw PAP in English 1203 GMT 13
Jan 93*

[Text] Kiev, Jan. 13—Ethnic Poles living in Ukraine must show that they are loyal citizens of the state they live in, Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka said in the Ukrainian capital Kiev on Wednesday [13 January].

At a meeting with ethnic Poles at the Polish Embassy on the second day of her working visit to Ukraine, Ms. Suchocka recalled the words of Pope John Paul II, that "Poles more than any other nation must put their lives into the balance, to show that they are Poles."

But you should remember, she continued, "that all rulers treat national minorities with understanding if they themselves are aware of their significance, and also if (they) are loyal citizens of the states where they happen to live."

Earlier on Wednesday morning, Ms. Suchocka also met with representatives of the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine. During the meeting, she invested Bishop Jan Olszanski into the Knights' Order of the Rebirth of Poland.

Signs Economic Agreements

*OW1301233193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday evening [12 January] in Kiev Leonid Kuchma and Hanna Suchocka, the Ukrainian and Polish Prime Ministers, signed a number of inter-governmental agreements, including the agreements "On mutual incentives and protection of investments," "On cooperation in the sphere of science and technologies," "On abolition of dual taxation of incomes and property and prevention of evasion while paying taxes," "On legal regime on the Ukrainian-Polish border and on cooperation to solve border issues." The parties signed a protocol on the creation of a consultative committee of the Ukrainian and Polish Presidents (Lech Walesa, the Polish President, put forward this idea at the meeting with the Ukrainian Ambassador to Poland, Gennadiy Udovenko).

Besides, the parties signed an agreement "On the Ukrainian-Polish committee on trade-economic cooperation" and the protocol on the cooperation between the Education Ministries of two states.

In the evening during the meeting with the Polish and Ukrainian entrepreneurs Hanna Suchocka stressed the necessity of a more active interaction between small and middle enterprises of both countries, of the expansion of the border trade, and of the creation of joint business schools.

At a press conference which was held in the evening the same day Leonid Kuchma noted that "they have found a common language on all issues."

Ends 'Working Visit'

*LD1301161793 Warsaw PAP in English 1551 GMT 13
Jan 93*

[Text] Kiev, Jan. 13—Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka on Wednesday [13 January] ended her working visit to Ukraine aimed at the intensification of bilateral economic relations.

The visit confirmed the political will of the two sides to promote cooperation, mainly in economy. Many bilateral agreements have been signed to normalize economic relations between the two countries.

In the course of the visit Suchocka repeatedly reiterated that the countries of central and eastern Europe are linked not only through their common history, but also a common aim.

"Our aim is to reconstruct our economies ruined by decades of real socialism. The success of reforms in one country can support favourable trends in others. Successful economic cooperation between countries of central and eastern Europe and the overcoming of economic recession depend on the political will of cooperation and smooth implementation of reforms in all countries of the region. There is such will of cooperation in Poland and in Ukraine," Suchocka declared.

Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma admitted that although at first he had been against the "shock therapy" in economy, he now appreciates the values of the Polish model of the economic restructuring.

Kuchma on Economic, Nuclear Ties With Russia

PM1301161993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 93 First Edition pp 1, 7

[Interview with Premier Leonid Kuchma by Nikolay Baklanov in Kiev; date not given: "Leonid Kuchma: Russia and Ukraine Need an Economic Union"]

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma is to visit Moscow 14 January. Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov of Moscow intends to meet with him and, in particular, to discuss the question of Ukraine's fulfillment of its commitments to supply foodstuffs to the capital.

Despite having received prepayments, Ukrainian plants are not delivering sugar to Moscow. The incoming amounts of sugar are barely enough to meet the food industry's requirements.

[Kuchma] I have repeatedly expressed the view that the current CIS has no great future. Although I unambiguously believe that we cannot do without some kind of commonwealth or union—I do not know how to put it more appropriately, so as not to alarm certain politicians. First and foremost, we need an economic union. Maybe Ukraine needs it more, and Belarus or other former union republics even more. Russia needs it less, but we all need it. But it should be without any superstructure—not because it would worry industrialists (who have their "feet on the ground" and know that the destruction of ties spells doom) but because it would mainly worry politicians.

At the same time, I advocate bilateral state relations, because they are closer and more comprehensible. You in Russia have certain problems, Kazakhstan has other problems, and Belarus has different problems. There are,

of course, common matters which must be discussed and resolved together at the head of government level—such as, for instance, mutual transactions or the elaboration of coordinated customs and taxation policies. After all, we are living in the same economic area. And we must proceed on that basis above all else. Moreover, before leaving the CIS we need to know where we are going and what awaits us. I have been asking myself that question and I can answer it—nobody is waiting for us anywhere.

[Baklanov] Relations between Ukraine and Russia following the collapse of the USSR have been rather bumpy—seesawing, one might say, between differences, then rapprochements, and vice versa. What stage are they at now and what are the prospects for them?

[Kuchma] Relations have indeed been bumpy—but this is the fault of the politicians, not the peoples. It seems to me that we have recently been trying to find greater mutual understanding between Ukraine and Russia. I unambiguously believe that with the appointment of Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin as Russian Federation premier this process will nonetheless be favorable—all the more so as we now talk on the telephone virtually every day. That is why, both tactically and strategically, I as prime minister cannot envisage constructive economic activity without relying on normal, mutually advantageous relations between Ukraine and Russia.

[Baklanov] According to certain forecasts, a national currency—the hryvnya—may be introduced in Ukraine this year provided that, apart from other measures, a foreign currency stabilization fund of \$2-3 billion is set up. ~~There is a view that Ukraine would like to link~~ Western financial assistance in setting up this fund to its own nuclear disarmament.

[Kuchma] We did not make the coupon our interim national currency on a whim. Figuratively speaking, we were "ousted" from the ruble zone by Russia 1 July 1992. So we were forced into this step. I and many others are perfectly well aware that the coupon is a temporary measure. We really need to move to a national currency. I agree with the international experts' assessment that this will require \$2-3 billion—which is money we currently do not have. But we have never stated at any level that we might make money out of nuclear disarmament.

In this regard I would note that I do not wholly understand Russia's position. After all, we agreed long ago to set up commissions to negotiate on the questions of what to do with missile warheads. We unambiguously state that since this is our property, we should receive something for it. We are talking about the nuclear fuel used in our nuclear power stations and supplied from Russia. In simple terms, we would hand over nuclear warheads with expensive contents, and receive in return an equivalent sum in nuclear fuel. This idea, which has already been discussed with Yegor Gaydar, seemingly met with understanding from the Russian side, but... we have been trying to "push" it forward several times now with the help of our Foreign Ministry but have had no response.

As for Western financial assistance, we are indeed stating that the removal of 176 strategic missiles will require a huge amount of expenditure. We have no money in our budget—we say that honestly. But nor does Russia, incidentally... So we will have to solve our problems in this sphere—not only financial but technical too—jointly, with Russia and the international community, which, I think, should understand the prevailing situation and help us out. After all, reductions in nuclear arsenals will benefit not only the peoples of Ukraine or Russia, but the entire world.

Talks Begin With Russia on Military Finances

LD1201180493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1657 GMT 12 Jan 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Kuznetsov]

[Text] Nikolayev January 12 TASS—Delegations of representatives of Russian and Ukrainian military departments, ministries of the military-industrial complex, foreign economic relations and finances began today negotiations in Nikolayev. The negotiations are held behind closed doors, but, judging by the talks participants, they focus on financing the building of ships, whose construction was begun before the disintegration of the former Soviet Union.

Antonov on 'Confrontation'

OW1301202293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1952 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Kiev Viktor Antonov, the Machine Building, Military-Industrial Complex and Conversion Minister of Ukraine, and Viktor Glukhikh, the chairman of the Russian committee on defense branches of industry, signed several agreements on the cooperation of two countries in the sphere of the defense production and conversion.

The parties determined the provisions of the cooperation in the rocket building, radioelectronics, communication means, and the civil production.

On Wednesday [13 January] Viktor Antonov reported to journalists that for the first time an analogical package of document at the inter-governmental level was signed in April last year. However, he declared that "the pro-Russian inspired command of the CIS Joint Armed forces impeded the realization of the agreements. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Antonov expressed his hope that "the present political confrontation between Ukraine and Russia and the elements of Russia's empire approach with respect to its relations with Ukraine will not hinder the cooperation of two neighboring states in the sphere of the defense industry and conversion."

Defense Complexes Sign Agreements

LD1301132993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Kiev January 13 TASS—A package of documents on the preservation and development of the existing ties, as well as the introduction of new forms of cooperation between enterprises of the Russian and Ukrainian defence complexes was signed here today.

The day before a Russian delegation led by Chairman of the Committee for Defence Industries Viktor Glukhikh held talks with their Ukrainian counterparts in order to give the last touches to the draft documents.

Viktor Glukhikh and Viktor Antonov, Ukrainian minister of machine building, defence complex and conversion, signed a framework agreement on economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

The Russian-Ukrainian documents regulate cooperation of the two countries' enterprises in aircraft building, rocket and space technology, radioelectronics and the production of aircraft motors. Bilateral agreements were initialled on cooperation in the production of the new passenger plane TU-334, the KA-128 and KA-31 helicopters. Glukhikh is expected to be received by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma today.

Kuchma Cited on Energy Relations With Russia

PM1201151993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Nikolay Baklanov report: "Ukraine: Roads to Russia"]

[Text] Kiev—In an interview given by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma circulated through Ukrinform channels, a great deal of attention was devoted to mutual relations with CIS countries.

The head of the Ukrainian Government once again stressed the deep connection between Ukraine and Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the other states of the former Soviet Union, noting the need to find mutual understanding and normalize mutual relations at all levels.

Speaking about the energy crisis that the Republic is experiencing, Kuchma said: "Today, as far as both oil and gas are concerned, all our roads lead to Russia." The prime minister considers the problem of mutual accounts to be the main obstacle in deliveries. Since July of last year, many Ukrainian enterprises have set up major correspondent accounts in Russia. This means that the money paid for output delivered stays there. In order to change this practice, the export of output from Ukraine has been categorically forbidden until prepayments have been received. If rubles start coming in,

the acuteness of the energy problem will be eased and it will be possible to count on an increase in deliveries from Russia.

L. Kuchma reported that in accordance with his agreement with Chernomyrdin, "there will be no delays for Ukraine" in January.

Comments on 'Difficult' Talks

LD1101193893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1922 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Kiev January 11 TASS—The settlement of relations with Russia is Ukraine's top-priority task, Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma said on Monday [11 January].

Speaking at a meeting with heads of city councils who gathered in Kiev on Monday, Kuchma said the government has prepared a package of documents to be discussed by the heads of government of the CIS states at their meeting on January 14 and by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk on January 15.

Kuchma expressed regret that the talks with Russia are difficult and slow. He said Russia agreed to supply only 15 million tonnes of oil out of 45 million tonnes requested by Ukraine. Of those 15 Russia has guaranteed the supply of only 7.5 million tonnes. The situation with gas supplies is much alike, Kuchma said.

He said there has been no progress in settling mutual payments either. Russian enterprises owe Ukraine 426 billion roubles, but the Central Bank of Russia refuses to pay the money, saying it bears no responsibility for enterprises' debts. The situation is also being compounded by Russia's plans to increase oil prices, which may paralyze the Ukrainian economy, Kuchma said.

Speaking about internal problems, the prime minister stressed the need to end the confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of power and called for strict observance of laws and resolutions.

Further on Relations

LD1201160593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] How to take Ukraine's economy out of the crisis? What must be done to protect the population from its destructive effects? These and other problems were discussed at a meeting by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma with leaders of local councils of people's deputies and towns of oblast subordination held on 11 January in Kiev. The prime minister stated that the main issue of today is the regulation of relations with Russia. The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has prepared a whole package of documents which will be examined on 14 January at the meeting of heads of governments of both states and the next day by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia.

Unfortunately, Leonid Kuchma stressed, for the time being the negotiations are proceeding with difficulty. At our request concerning the allocation this year of 45 million tonnes of oil they promised to supply 15 [million], of which only seven and a half million tonnes are guaranteed. It is a similar situation with gas.

With regard to the internal problems of Ukraine, in Leonid Kuchma's opinion it is necessary to end the opposition of the representative and the executive powers and also to steadfastly implement adopted laws and resolutions.

There was an interesting discussion at the meeting about the problems of the formation of local budgets and the budget of the country. It was stressed at this that the latter should be formed from below. Great attention was paid to the problems of financing the construction of housing and facilities in the social and cultural sphere and also to the taxation policy, licensing, quotas, improving the management of municipal property of towns, and to the social protection of the population.

Kuchma May Resign Over Fuel

OW1201222793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1946 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nikolay Popovich, the chief of the department of the Ukrainian State committee on oil and gas, told INTERFAX that the issue concerning the deliveries of the Russian fuel and energy to Kiev is at the stage of agreement and it will finally be considered on January 15 in Moscow at the summit Yeltsin-Kravchuk.

Popovich underlined that if Kiev receives less than 30 million tons of the Russian oil in 1993 then "the petrochemistry in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation will be ruined." In particular, he explained that Ukraine produces ethylene and exports it to Russia for the production of propylene. "If there is no ethylene then there will be not propylene, plastics, fertilizers, carbamide, nitrogen, etc. If we do not produce the necessary quantity of the raw material then there will be no sense to put the Russian petrochemical facilities into operation," he said.

"We are closely connected with Russia and if we begin to blackmail each other then both organisms will suffer," Popovich declared.

On Monday [11 January] at a press conference in Kiev Premier Leonid Kuchma reported that in response to Ukraine's request to allocate 45 million tons of oil Russia promised to deliver 15 million tons and there is a guarantee to receive only 7.5 million tons. Last year Ukraine received from Russia 37 million tons of oil instead of 40 million promised in the beginning of the year.

According to Kuchma, Moscow does not demonstrate any strive to settle the issue on mutual accounts. The

debt of the Russian enterprises constitutes 426 billion rubles but the Central Bank of Russia refuses to repay it because it is not responsible for the activity of the enterprises. The situation is being aggravated by the fact that the Russian Federation intends to substantially increase the prices for fuel and energy. In this case, Kuchma declared, I shall resign because this move of Russia will lead to the collapse of the Ukrainian economy.

Republic Not Bound by Protocol on USSR Foreign Debt

PM1201162393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Tsikora report on interview with N. Maymeskul, chief of the Department for International Economic Cooperation at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry; place and date not given: "Diplomats Are Penning Notes, But Russia and Ukraine's Debts Are Not Diminishing"]

[Text] Kiev—The Ukrainian Government has adopted a decision to refrain from handing over to Russia rights and functions with regard to the administration of the Ukrainian share of the former USSR's foreign debt and financial assets.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry officially notified the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry of this in a diplomatic note.

N. Maymeskul, chief of the Department for International Economic Cooperation at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, commented on the background to this step:

[Maymeskul] In view of the acute need to somehow unblock the problem of the former USSR's debts to foreign creditors, the Ukrainian Government signed a diplomatic protocol with the Russian Federation Government 23 November last year, under which Ukraine granted Russia the authority to administer the Ukrainian share of the former USSR's foreign debt and financial assets on a temporary basis.

For its part, Russia pledged to make available to Ukraine full and official information on the former Soviet Union's assets and debts, and also the movement of these assets and debts with effect from 1 December 1991. This constituted the necessary prerequisite for concluding a separate interstate agreement between Russia and Ukraine prior to 31 December 1992. The protocol established that in the event of a failure to sign this agreement, each of the two parties would have the right to give written notice of the fact that it was not bound by its provisions.

Unfortunately, N. Maymeskul went on, since then Ukraine has received no official information about assets and liabilities, and the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has received no answer to its proposal to begin talks on this matter.

Consequently the Republic's government decided that Ukraine will no longer be bound by the protocol it signed and is refraining from handing over to Russia its rights and functions with regard to the administration of the former USSR's foreign debt and financial assets. Ukraine is undertaking to pay back the share of the foreign debt which falls to its due. At the same time, Ukraine has stated its inalienable right to a corresponding share of the assets as one of the successors to the USSR.

Ukraine is ready to hold talks with Russia and has formed its own state delegation.

Official Comments on Debt

OW1101201793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine announced that Russia had not fulfilled the terms with which Kiev entrusted it concerning the right to deal with the Ukrainian part of the former Union's foreign debt. Chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's Department for International Economic Cooperation Maymeskul explained to INTERFAX why the Ukrainian government had decided to repay its part of the debt on its own and lay claims on its part of Ukraine's assets.

Having received powers to deal with the Ukrainian part of the former Union's foreign debt and assets last year, Russia pledged to supply Ukraine with exhaustive information about the former Union's debt and assets, said Maymeskul. However, to this day, Kiev has not received any information of this kind.

Ukraine is ready to hold bilateral talks with Russia on the issue, he said.

Commentary on Ukraine-U.S. Relations

LD1301123993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] On 20 January, the 42d U.S. President Bill Clinton and his team will move to the White House. Will the new presidency have any effect on Ukrainian-American relations?

Till now, Ukrainian-American relations have been built on the principles of equality, respect and mutual advantage. The people of Ukraine will never forget that the United States was one of the first countries in the world which recognized Ukraine as an independent state and opened their embassies in this republic. In Kiev, they are convinced that good relations between Ukraine and the U.S. will be not only preserved but further consolidated. At least, the Bill Clinton team will not be connected with the previous stand of the Republicans, who applied great pressure upon the George Bush Administration. And to this point, it would be worthwhile to recall the landmarks in Ukrainian-American relations.

After the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and an exchange of ambassadors, the most important event was President Kravchuk's visit to the United States and his negotiations with George Bush. Personal contacts between the two presidents helped Washington determine its attitude toward Ukraine. The foundations of the further development of equal relations were fixed in the declaration on partnership, signed by the presidents of the two countries. It's very important that the declaration on partnership has been gradually filled with concrete programs. In June last year, a trade agreement came into force, according to which the U.S. and Ukraine provided each other with the most favorable terms in trade. At the end of last year, the two countries signed an agreement on sea navigation, thus making their sea ports open for each others merchant ships. In its turn, this will promote trade between the United States of America and Ukraine.

Despite all the positive factors, one should not disregard the fact that of late there have been discrepancies between the two countries as far as nuclear disarmament issues are concerned. Ukraine's stand in relation to this problem was expounded these days by the government delegation of Ukraine which arrived in Washington on a special mission. The delegation members assured President George Bush and other high officials that the government of Ukraine would consistently carry out a policy line, aimed at achieving a non-nuclear status by Ukraine in compliance with the historic decision of the Supreme Council of Ukraine. At the same time, they expressed anxiety over the policy line of Moscow and pointed to the necessity of international guarantees of security, reimbursement of spendings required for the liquidation of nuclear weapons and so on.

At present, intensive preparations are under way in Ukraine's parliament for the ratification of the treaty on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive weapons. This requires a comprehensive approach toward the problem, deep analysis of the after effects the treaty may have on Ukraine, its security if ratified.

President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine congratulated his U.S. counterpart, Bill Clinton, with his victory at the presidential election and expressed certainty that relations between Ukraine and the United States will be further expanded and consolidated on the principles of equality and respect. Such is the wish of the entire Ukrainian nation.

National Affairs

No Casualties, Radiation After Chernobyl Fire

OW1301133693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321
GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A fire incident occurred at Tuesday [12 January] night at one of the auxiliary buildings of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

The chief of the operators' shift received a fire alarm signal, indicative of a heavy smoke emission in the building located between the first and the second power units, at 23:54 Moscow time.

According to the Ukrainian TV account of the incident, the fire occurred in the electric supply building providing power supply to portable measuring instruments.

The fire was put out inside an hour. No casualties are reported. No changes in the radiation situation have been registered. The mode of operation of the active power units did not change.

Chernobyl Reactors 1, 2 Closed in Nov

WS1201133693 Kiev KYIVSKA PRAVDA in
Ukrainian 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by an unidentified KYIVSKA PRAVDA correspondent: "Only No. 3 Operated"]

[Text] V. Vasylenko, the chief engineer of the production association "Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Plant," has informed us that only reactor No. 3 was in operation in November. Conservation works were under way on reactor No. 1, the second reactor was being removed from operation. The state of the sarcophagus was within the accepted standards.

In November, the leakage of different components was 10 to 47.8 percent of the norm.

Competition on Saving Chernobyl Under Way

WS1201133593 Kiev KYIVSKA PRAVDA in
Ukrainian 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by N. Vasylyuk: "What Will Be the Fate of the Sarcophagus?"]

[Text] This was already the second conference at the press center of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dedicated to the competition for the best technical idea for turning the "Shelter" of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station [AES] into an ecologically clean system. H. Hotovchyts, minister for the Protection of the Population From the Chernobyl AES Accident Aftermath, and leading scientists from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences dealing with this problem, were present.

In June, the conditions were announced for the international competition for the most efficient project to ensure that the "Shelter" is ecologically clean. In July, government delegations of Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, 20 companies from the world's leading nuclear states, and representatives of the International Atomic Energy

Agency gathered to discuss details. By now the organization committee has received 330 applications for participation in the competition with 179 official project proposals.

On 1 December, the first round of the competition was held in the United States. Twenty-four international companies attended. However, the competition revealed certain problems. For example, the organization committee started receiving proposals to extend the period for submitting applications. It was also revealed that the project's costs had not been determined, and the matter of financing the preliminary stage (that of the preparation of the projects) had not been resolved. The governments of Great Britain, France, and Germany took care of their companies, the rest had to count on their own resources.

The issue of the "Shelter's" reconstruction was first raised in 1990, but the proposals were considered dangerous. There existed a project for spreading a thick layer of concrete over the radioactive mass of reactor No. 4, or turning the site into a "green lawn," not taking into consideration that Ukraine did not have a nuclear waste dump of its own. Today's vision of the sarcophagus is absolutely different. It should become a safe system, able to operate for 100 years, with a possibility of control and research. We will have to wait for the final project.

French Submit Proposal

WS1201133393 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian
12 Dec 92 p 3

[Article by Valeriy Novsvitniy from the "Echo of Chernobyl" column: "The French Variant"]

[Text] The French offer a comprehensive solution to the problem: not only should a new protective shell be placed over the entire sarcophagus, but also a plant should be built nearby that would diffuse, decontaminate, and store radioactive wastes. The company's public relations director, Pierre Capet, acquainted journalists with the project; the official bid will be sent to the Ministry of Chernobyl [Minchornobyl] after 31 December, the closing day for the international tender contest.

One of the priority objectives for Campenon Bernard is the construction of a hermetic shell under the No. 4 reactor. Then, they would drive concrete slabs into the ground to lay the foundation of the future plant, followed by the erection of yet two more shells protecting the engine-room and the sarcophagus.

The construction technology will provide protection for workers against radiation. The shell consists of prefabricated blocks—hollow concrete cubes—which are placed on the edge of the foundation, and after that, an automatic device delivers those cubes to the specific areas in the future shell.

The device moves down the rails laid by it. The cubes are hollow, with the pressure inside higher than the atmospheric pressure. This is why the radioactive particles cannot penetrate inside even when the cubes become depressurized.

Thus, in the first stage of construction, a plant will be built to dismantle the No. 4 block. Inside, over the existing "shelter" [ukryttya] installation, a bridge tank crane, with a hoisting capacity of 200 tons, will be fixed. It will dismantle the sarcophagus and the reactor and move the equipment, including outside of the sarcophagus. Electricity-operated excavators, micro-explosion equipment, and other devices will fracture the sarcophagus, and pulverize and dump the hardened radioactive mass into a collector. To prevent stirring up radioactive dust, there are plans to fill the reactor's inside with sand. A pump is being designed that would "swallow" the dust and fist-sized particles. A similar pump has already been used to clean the fall-out from nuclear test rings in France.

Given the high level of radiation inside the sarcophagus, the mechanisms that would dismantle it will be equipped with a hydraulic engine instead an electric one, and will carry out the operator's commands transmitted through the electric cable. The operator himself will monitor the functioning of mechanisms from a stationary lead booth with the help of video cameras.

After the pulverized radioactive reactor and sarcophagus fractures get into the collector, a special sorting mechanism will divide them into three categories according to the level of their radioactivity. The most dangerous will be melted together with glass, packed in steel containers, and stored in special rooms under permanent control. Less radioactive mass will be kept in hermetically sealed metal barrels and located in special concrete modules placed near the ChAES [Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station], covered with layers of clay and green plants. A furnace is planned to be installed inside the plant that would remelt the radioactive metal to manufacture barrels and containers, which will be used to store wastes from the No. 4 reactor.

In the opinion of the company's finance director, Jean-Marie Auste [name as transliterated], the building of a protective shelter around the existing "Shelter" installation and a reactor-dismantling plant will cost at least 1 billion francs, or about \$200 million. The French Government pledged financial aid to the company, and has already partially covered the pre-design research. In addition, Jean-Marie Auste established contacts with the management of the EEC, EBRD, and the World Bank. It is quite possible that they will finance not only the dismantling of the Chernobyl reactor, but also the building of the above mentioned plant.

As to the terms, the company representative said that it would take a year to thoroughly study the situation at the station, one more year to develop a project, and five

years to launch the reactor-dismantling plant, which, in turn, will be in operation for another 15 years.

This is virtually all that the French friends wanted to acquaint the public with. We are not experts and will refrain from evaluating the project. It is experts who will have the final say. We would like only to note the approach of the Western specialists to solving the problem.

All in all, a strange situation is developing: the international contest has already lasted more than a year, but this presentation was among the first to come in. Why? Either the Minchornobyl and the Ukrainian Government are too slow to publicize the contest—after all, this matter concerns not only its participants (then that would cast some more light on the scandal over another French company, Bouigue, mentioned by Volodymyr Yavorivsky in his speech to the legislature)—or alternative projects simply do not exist, what is very unlikely. Or, perhaps someone thinks that the inhabitants of Ukraine could not care less about the fate of the still dangerous reactor No. 4?

Campaign Bids To Lift Ban on Communist Party

OW1301124893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1207 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Pyotr Simonenko, chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Restoration of the Communist Party of Ukraine and former second secretary of the party's Donetsk regional committee, told INTERFAX that enough signatures have been collected from members of parliament to have parliament consider at one of its plenary sessions the abrogation of the decree banning the party without any preliminary voting on the inclusion of the matter in the agenda.

The Ukrainian Parliament banned the party in August 1991, after the abortive coup d'etat in Moscow.

Simonenko said the organizing committee for an all-Ukraine Communist Conference decided to hold the latter in Donetsk in the second half of February. The agenda will be compiled after parliament lifts the ban on the party.

"By restoring the party, we will restore historic justice," Simonenko said.

Odessa Refuses To Accommodate Communist Party Congress

LD1401093093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0701 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktoria Dudikh for TASS]

[Text] Odessa January 14 TASS—The Black Sea resort of Odessa in Ukraine refused to provide a hall for the founding Congress of the Ukrainian Communist Party scheduled for January 16.

Local authorities said that the congress intends to restore the Communist Party of Ukraine which was banned by the parliament on August 30, 1991.

In Donetsk, however, local authorities allowed to hold a congress of the Young Communist League, a youth subsidiary of the Communist Party, which revived the organisation in Ukraine.

Artillery Brigade Swears Allegiance to Ukraine

LD1301231493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] All the officers, warrant officers, and personnel of the 301st Artillery Brigade of the Black Sea Fleet have recently sworn allegiance to the people of Ukraine. The entire brigade has been transferred to the jurisdiction of Ukraine and taken out of the Black Sea Fleet.

This unit has reinforced the Crimean Army Corps of the Odessa Military District.

Rukh Issues Communique on Fourth Congress

WS1301133893 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 11 Dec 92 p 1

[RUKH-PRESS communique: "On the Results of The Fourth All-Ukrainian Congress Of People's Rukh"]

[Text] The Fourth All-Ukrainian Rukh Congress has introduced changes in the organization charter designed to make it consistent with the law "On Citizen Unions." After the introduction of changes, Rukh has kept its name and status. It is "The Independent Mass Sociopolitical Organization the People's Rukh of Ukraine." This means that Rukh has kept both its political and social functions under the law. In light of the provisions of the law on organizations participating in the formulation of state policy, the formation of administrative, local, and regional self-rule organs; Rukh has removed from its charter the right to entrepreneurship, and has prohibited simultaneous membership in Rukh and any other political organization with a separate charter and program.

The congress has adopted the document Concept of State Creation, Rukh's official program document, and a general political program, adopted by the first, and supplemented by the second and the third All-Ukrainian congresses.

According to the amendments to the charter, V. Chornovil has been elected the chairman of Rukh for a two-year term. The congress has confirmed the powers of Deputy Chairmen O. Lavrynovych and M. Boychysyn, Central Command members, elected at the Third All-Ukrainian Rukh Congress. The congress accepted the

resignation of M. Porovskyy from the Central Command. New members S. Holovatyy, V. Ivasyuk, and Doctor of Economics O. Savchenko have been elected to replace those who departed.

Green Party Declaration Questions Government Policies

WS1301134193 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 12 Dec 92 p 2

[Text of the declaration of the Ukrainian Green Party attributed to the party's Political Council: "Declaration of the Ukrainian Green Party With Regard to the Actions of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers"]

[Text] The prime minister's report to the legislature underscored the sad consequences of economic management in the independent Ukraine over the past year. There are no doubts about the gravity of the situation and the need for radical measures to improve it. There is no need to question the government's resolve to steer a determined course. At the beginning of this course, however, it is important to focus on methods that in our opinion are flawed and potentially dangerous.

The political activities of parties, regardless of their orientations, are not the cause but the effect of economic instability and the government's inability to ensure a proper functioning of the social organism. The prime minister's drive to curtail such activities, combined with the rapid expansion of the powers of the executive branch, jeopardizes the democratic process. One can apply drastic measures as an excuse for everything, but there is little that one can really justify by such measures.

The fact that the report failed to even mention the catastrophic environmental situation caused deep concern and anxiety in the Green Party. The premier, as his predecessor, ignores the relationship between the economy and the ecology. Nothing can be good in economic terms if it is not good for the ecology. Today's profits may turn into heavy losses inflicted through long years of decontamination and cleanup. Survival at the

expense of the future generations is a near-sighted policy, let alone the ethic and moral side of the matter.

The report kept silent about the conversion of the military-industrial complex, which could boost economic transformation. We hope that the head of the Cabinet, who denounces "clannish" and "narrow-corporate" attitudes, does not embrace the interests of the same groups.

Wishing the new Cabinet successes in overcoming the economic crisis in our country, we wish to reiterate that only a balanced development based on democratic institutions will place Ukraine in the proper place in the world community.

Monetary Commission Adopts Regulations for Ruble Sales

WS1301133793 Kiev KYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 10 Dec 92 p 2

[Report attributed to the press service of the Ukrainian prime minister: "How To Buy Rubles?"]

[Text] The State Commission for Monetary Reform in Ukraine has adopted a statute on the ruble exchange outlets.

Such points will be organized for the needs of Ukrainian and ruble zone countries citizens. They will be run by Ukrainian banks and enterprises, and licensed by the oblast divisions of the National Bank of Ukraine. The working schedule of these outlets will be determined by the founding organizations, and should be convenient for the citizens. The points will sell and buy rubles from Ukrainian residents and foreigners without any limitations. The exchange rates of rubles will be determined by the managers of the founding institutions. No duty fees are permitted.

The sale of rubles and coupons for cash will be performed on citizens' oral requests. The citizens will be given receipts of currency transactions. Control over the exchange points will be maintained by the founding organizations. Licenses may be withdrawn in the case of misuse, concealment, or forgery revealed by law enforcement and financial organs.

Belarus**Destruction of Armored Personnel Carriers Starts***LD1301210093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The press center of the Belarus Defense Ministry reports: The drive to reduce the military machinery and weapons limited by the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe, continues. Work started today in the second [words indistinct]. Armored personnel carriers are being systematically dismantled and destroyed here. Over a month, 24 armored military machines will be liquidated.

Altogether in Belarus, over 300 armored personnel carriers will be destroyed. The metal will be melted down and the [words indistinct].

As you know, in [word indistinct] medium- and short-range missile launchers were once destroyed.

The destruction of these weapons involved no expenditure, because existing technology is being used.

A [word indistinct] group of (?inspectors) has arrived to monitor the reduction of armored personnel carriers, according to the national agency for control and inspection at the Belarus Defense Ministry.

Talks on Border Delimitation With Lithuania Postponed*LD1401110193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] Belarusian-Lithuanian talks on the delimitation of the common border have once again been postponed for an indefinite period. The reason for this new postponement is the Lithuanian side's unreadiness for the meeting. The talks were originally scheduled for 5 January. According to Stanislav Ogurtsov, special ambassador for the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, the postponement of the meeting does not mean there are any disagreements between Belarus and Lithuania, BELINFORM reports.

Monetary, Credit Committee's Activities Defined*LD1301220093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0605 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] The statute of a monetary [valyutny] and credit committee at the Council of Ministers has been confirmed. In accordance with the statute, the monetary and credit committee coordinates actions of ministries, departments, banks, enterprises, and organizations in attraction and effective use of foreign credits. The committee will also form proposals regarding the national investment policy with a view to reforming the economy of the republic, coordinating the activities of establishments, banks, enterprises, and organizations of various forms of property in the sphere of cooperation with

international financial organizations and foreign investors. Consideration of proposals on priority directions of using foreign credits and financing state programs as well as a range of other issues will also be included in the activities of the monetary and credit committee. [passage omitted]

People Disillusioned With Political Parties*LD1401000293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[by BELINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, 13 January (TASS)—Social protection of the citizens of Belarus, their honor, liberty and human dignity is the main task of the Party of Social Justice, whose creation was advocated today by an organizing committee headed by Anatoliy Netylkin, people's deputy of the Republic of Belarus. He announced that the party will work to build an equal opportunity society, political sovereignty, and an integrated economy. In defending this platform, the members of the organizing committee are certain that they will be able to win over a large number of Belarusian citizens, who have had time to grow disillusioned with the activities of many political parties and movements.

Incidentally this is confirmed by research conducted by the Belarusian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Sociology. Answers to the question "Which political parties and movements do you most trust?" were not very cheerful for the politicians. The Party of Belarus Communists retains its popularity rating in the republic. It is trusted by 13.7 percent of the population. Next comes the Movement for Democracy, Social Progress and Justice, with 10.1 percent. The Belarusian People's front collected 9.9 percent. The sociologists mention the Party of People's Concord and the National Democratic Party of Belarus as outsiders.

Party of People's Accord on Privatization*WS1301134093 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 11 Dec 92 p 3*

[Article by I. Antashkevich, V. Davhalov, L. Sechka, U. Shavtsov, members of the Party of People's Accord (PPA) Council, under the "Party's Position" rubric: "Nobody Must Be Offended"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Quite a few new political parties have come into the political arena of the Republic. PPA [Party of People's Accord] is among them. Our newspaper presents the PPA program in the sphere of de-monopolization in the Republic of Belarus.

The PPA views the privatization process not as an instant change of one form of property into the other, but as a relatively lengthy procedure including the development of market relations, reconstruction, and technical re-equipping of state enterprises, to increase the ability

of the latter to produce competitive end products. Simultaneously, working collectives will become interested in privatization, on the condition that a huge influx of capital be invested into the process of privatization, and provided that all Belarusian citizens be given equal rights to the de monopolized property.

The following measures are proposed for the implementation of these tasks:

1. To register the Belarusian Bank for Reconstruction and Development [BBRD] and transfer all state property (including kolkhozes and sovkhoses) which is subject to privatization based on to their residual value and inventory on the BBRD balance sheet beginning January 1993.
2. All Belarusian citizens will become BBRD private depositors. They will obtain a nominal account corresponding to the total of funds (based on the property taken on the BBRD balance) divided among the number of our citizens as of 1 January 1993. The first account deposits may be used only for the privatization process. Such an approach wipes out the possibility for unbridled speculation, guarantees security and protection for the allotted property for our citizens, and simplifies initial measures for the execution of privatization. In the future, while the capital market is being developed, the first nominal accounts should be turned into shares of the BBRD allowing Belarusian citizens to use them as they wish.
3. Deposit interest rates are calculated both based on the cost of redemption of enterprises undergoing privatization, and on the cost of other kinds of the BBRD business activity. Depositors use their account dividends as they wish.
4. To transfer the management of production units which are under the BBRD supervision to the Councils of the working collectives as free lease, beginning 1 January 1993. Councils of the working collectives are formed in accordance with the democratic principles when the manager is given 25 percent of voting shares in the Council.
- To authorize the Councils to select a manager, to divide their real estate or integrate with other real estates based on bilateral agreements according to the Law of Leasing. The main task of the Councils is to ensure economic effectiveness and privatization of their enterprises through stock holding.
5. To create a Belarusian Stock Exchange [BSE] within the BBRD for free sale of enterprise stocks based on their market price, insurance of investments, and protection of nominal accounts from inflation.
6. To begin to distribute shares of stock at an enterprise as soon as it has become privatized. Councils of the working collectives will have first right of acquisition and allotment of 75 percent of stocks among physical and legal persons (including foreigners). Not less than 25

percent of stocks should be allotted by the BSE through free sale to physical and legal persons (including foreigners).

7. Stock holding of kolkhozes and sovkhoses should be conducted on the basis of general principles ensuring the right to acquire and allot 100 percent of stocks.

8. The BBRD can be opened within the Belarusian Savings Bank. It will help to encourage investments through monetary assets of our population and to lessen their losses due to inflation.

9. The Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus will control the activities of the BBRD through the Belarusian National Bank [BNB]. The BNB must assist the BBRD with investments.

10. To charge the BBRD with organizing consulting, informational, expert, engineering, financial, and other mediation companies on the basis of the structures within the Belarusian Committee for State Property to provide services for enterprises undergoing privatization.

11. To reorganize the management of economy, considering proposals of de-monopolization and privatization of state property.

12. To work out a program of support for unprofitable enterprises to ensure their profitability. By the BBRD decision, the inefficient enterprises can be weeded out by competitive or auction selling.

13. To determine that the BBRD held enterprises undergoing privatization by 1 January 1995 are released from payments to the BBRD for leasing the property of its depositors, citizens of Belarus. In the future, the Belarusian Supreme Council is responsible for determining payment amounts.

14. To enlist the services of experts from the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other international financial organizations to procure assistance for the development of the BBRD activities, first of all, in the sphere of privatization of the state property in Belarus.

Our proposals on the de-monopolization and privatization of the state property in Belarus fully coincide with the social-economic changes carried out by the Supreme Council and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus. At the same time, these measures should be viewed together with the other elements of our program to resolve the economic crisis and conduct the transition to a market economy.

[Signed] Members of the PPA Council: I. Antashkevich, V. Davhalov, L. Sechka, U. Shavtsov

United Democratic Party on Political Situation*WS1201133893 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 11 Dec 92 p 1*

[Article by ZVYAZDA correspondent A. Knyazyuk under the "Echo" rubric: "Belarusian United Democratic Party: 'Freeze! Who Is Crawling?'"]

[Text] The Council of the Belarusian United Democratic Party [BUDP] decided to conduct further discussions on the draft resolution on the political situation in the Republic and the BUDP tasks. The regular BUDP Congress will consider the adoption of this draft resolution.

According to BELAPAN, the draft resolution reads: "For the past three months, the Cabinet of Ministers and the legislature have adopted a number of decrees directed against the development of market relations.... In substance, the government's policy is directed at the development of the Third World market economy, at the development of a group of entrepreneurs on the basis of an alliance between shadow structures and communist party apparatchiks. All this speaks for a crawling coup d'etat, for the establishment of authoritarian rule, for a setback on the road toward democratic reforms..."

In conclusion, the BUDP promises "to resort to legal means to fight for an early dissolution of the Supreme Council and early elections."

Decree on Implementing Law on Border Troops*WS1101133593 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian No 234, 9 Dec 92 p 1*

[Belarusian Supreme Council Decree "On the Implementation of the Law 'On Border Troops' of the Republic of Belarus"; issued in Minsk on 5 November 1992]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Council decrees:

1. To enact the Law of the Republic of Belarus 'On Border Troops' from the day of its publication.

2. To charge the Belarusian Council of Ministers within three months from the implementation of the Law 'On Border Troops of the Republic of Belarus':

—to submit to the Belarusian Supreme Council proposals on adopting legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus that are in conformity with the given law;

—to ensure that ministries, state committees, and departments of the Republic of Belarus revise and repeal normative acts contradicting the current law;

3. To charge the Belarusian Council of Ministers within two months from the adoption of the Law 'On Border Troops of the Republic of Belarus':

—to consider and confirm the organizational structure and number of personnel in the units and subdivisions of the Belarusian Border Troops;

—to ensure the financing of the Belarusian Border Troops and to establish the means of acquisition and use of special technology, property, articles, and other legally confiscated contraband for the needs of Border Troops.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 5 November 1992

Decree on Implementing Law on State Border*WS1101133693 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian No 234, 9 Dec 92 p 2*

[Belarusian Supreme Council Decree "On Implementation of the Law 'On State Border' of the Republic of Belarus"; issued in Minsk on 4 November 1992]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Council Decrees:

1. To enact the Law 'On State Border of the Republic of Belarus' from the day of its publication.

2. Pending the bringing of Belarusian legislative acts into conformity with the Law 'On State Border of the Republic of Belarus', legislative acts in effect concerning the state border of the Republic of Belarus are applied inasmuch as they do not contradict the given law.

3. To charge the Belarusian Council of Ministers within two months from the implementation of the Law 'On State Border of the Republic of Belarus':

—to submit to the Belarusian Supreme Council proposals on bringing legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus into conformity with the given law;

—to ensure that ministries and departments revise and repeal their normative acts contradicting the given law;

—to appoint Belarusian border representatives on the Belarusian-Polish state border and to define their authority and prioritize the issues concerning the maintenance of the Belarusian state border regime. To appoint Belarusian border representatives to other parts of the state border in accordance with the organization of their defense by units of the Belarusian Border Troops;

—to settle the issue of the establishment of the border line, border zone, and their border regime. To submit to the Belarusian Supreme Council proposals on the establishment of voluntary formations in border residential areas to assist Border Troops in the defense of the Belarusian state border, on their rights, responsibilities, and the establishment of their duties.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 4 November 1992

Moldova

Dniester, Moldovan Commissions Meet for Talks

LD1301215993 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 2005
GMT 13 Jan 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau January 13 TASS—The first meeting of working commissions from Moldova and Dniester region was held in the city of Bendery on Wednesday [13 January] to work out a draft document on basic principles of regulating the situation in the left-bank region by peaceful means.

Leader of the Moldovan delegation, Anatol Tsaranu, told a correspondent of MOLDOVA PRESS that different approaches to the settlement of the problem have been expressed during the meeting.

He said that a project presented by Moldova's commission provides for granting considerable powers to the Dniester region in the sphere of local government and creates prerequisites for ensuring human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities.

Tiraspol has put forward a draft treaty on the division of powers between the subjects of a Moldovan conference it suggested to convene which contradicts both the logic of the conflict settlement and principles of respect for territorial integrity and Moldovan sovereignty and is aimed at recognising de-facto the document as endorsed to be submitted for discussion.

The Moldovan commission believes that this would sharply reduce the possibility of finding a correct decision and would bring the political dialogue to a deadlock.

Another meeting of commissions is scheduled for January 18.

Unity Movement Calls For Dissolution of Parliament

LD1301221793 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 2119
GMT 13 Jan 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau January 14 TASS—A council of the Unity Movement issued a statement in Moldova on Wednesday [13 January] saying that the Moldovan parliament is unable to resolve vitally important questions for the republic and called to dissolve the parliament ahead of schedule and hold new elections.

According to the statement, the crisis in the Moldovan parliament has entered the stage of agony. Permanent parliamentary commissions consisting predominantly of supporters of the Moldovan People's Front, submit draft laws unacceptable to the majority of deputies. The parliamentary majority is paralysed by factions of the people's front and their supporters in the presidium.

The work of the parliament is being hampered by the arbitrariness of the presidium which confronts the parliament majority. The present parliament has no moral right to adopt a new constitution of the republic, the statement said.

Further on Gagauz Government Resignations

OW1201214793 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1946
GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [12 January] the government of the self-proclaimed Gagauz republic resigned. This demand was put forward by the session of the Gagauz Supreme Soviet held in Komrat. According to the deputies, the cabinet failed to timely undertake the measures to abolish the economic dependence of Gagauzia from Moldova and to strengthen the statehood of the republic.

Now the executive power has been transferred to President Stepan Topal. The Supreme Soviet set him to propose new composition of the government for approval in the near possible time. On January 12 Topal appointed the heads of the administrations in all three regions of the self-proclaimed Gagauz republic. They will subordinate directly to the president.

During his conversation with an INTERFAX correspondent Ivan Mutkoglo, the chief of the secretariat of the Gagauz Supreme Soviet, underlined that the government's resignation has not any political ground and it occurred due to purely economic reasons. However, according to the observers, the changes in the structures of Gagauzia's state power were caused by political contradictions among its leaders. The former head of the government, Fedor Manolov, is known for his centrist position. He did not support the idea of Gagauzia's statehood and advocated granting of a greater economic independence to the regions densely inhabited by the Gagauz population.

Finance Minister Announces Budget Deficit Figures

LD1201201493 Moscow *ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian* 1700 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The preliminary results of the implementation of the Moldovan budget in 1992 and its draft for 1993 were examined at an extended session of a parliamentary commission on the republic's economy and budget. Representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the National Bank, and the Agro-Industrial Bank participated.

Minister of Finance Klavdiya Melnik noted that the republic ended last year with a budget deficit of 20 billion rubles (for the second half of 1992 it was planned to the sum of 12.2 billion rubles). Due to the huge military expenditure and payments to the participants in

the Dniester area conflict, as well as the drought, the budget deficit amounted to nearly 6 percent of the gross domestic product.

Snegur Cited on Importance of Privatization Process

PM1301094393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jan 93 First Edition p 3

[Lyudmila Feliksova report under the "Privatization" rubric: "Vouchers in Russia, Coupons in Moldova"]

[Text] Moldova—Following lengthy disputes, amendments, and persuasion to make haste, the parliament of Moldova has passed the law on privatization, but only its first reading so far.

President M. Snegur of Moldova gave an address on this subject in parliament and stressed: "Private ownership is as important a matter as the Republic's independence." And leading reforms out of the critical downturn is only possible on condition that their main mechanism—privatization—is released. Experts from a European Community special mission have concluded that Moldova's privatization program meets the criteria of the transition to an effective market economy, M. Snegur asserted. Its implementation will provide the necessary conditions for implementing a convertible national currency. The EC Commission appears to have adopted a decision to allocate 980,000 ecus (\$1.4 million) for the implementation of this program.

All citizens of the Republic of Moldova can participate in the privatization. The installations, deadlines, and methods involved in the transfer to private ownership have already been determined. It is planned that the privatization will be carried out mainly by means of national property coupons [bony narodnovo dostoyaniya]. The quantity for each person will be determined by their length of labor service on the territory of Moldova, but everyone, including vagrants and infants, has been credited with five years. After that, it is a question of who has worked for how long. Unlike the Russian vouchers, the Moldovan coupons will be nominal: You will not be able to trade with them or exchange them for a bottle of vodka. You will be able to use them to buy shares or acquire an apartment or other premises

subject to privatization. There is only one category of people who will not receive either coupons or vouchers—those who live in Moldova but have adopted Russian citizenship. Lists of the Republic's citizens were drawn up just before the new year; these contain detailed calculations of citizens' length of service. The deadline for handing in documents has been repeatedly postponed: It has turned out that not everyone finds it that easy to fill out a form many pages long. At the moment it is not known when the coupons themselves will be issued, but in any case it will not be earlier than in several months' time.

Of course, quiet privatization has been going on in Moldova for a long time now despite the absence of the relevant law. And those who are nearest to the state cornucopia are the ones who are reaching out to grab it. Everything that can be bought is being bought, and indeed at a symbolic price. The powers that be have listed the whole gamut of this quiet privatization in a special edict under which the president of Moldova has bound officials to examine unlawful actions, reverse them, and punish the culprits. Naturally, the edict is having a calming effect on those who suspected that everything was privatized a long time ago, but the coupons are more a political symbol than a real economic lever for change to private ownership. It is hard to say whether it will really work. And although the president of Moldova has promised every citizen of Moldova that privatization will not become a campaign or a trap, it will be extremely difficult to sort it out according to the principles of social justice.

U.S. Humanitarian Aid Arrives in Chisinau

LD1201102593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 12 Jan 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau January 12 TASS—Twenty tonnes of humanitarian aid from the United States has arrived in Chisinau, Moldova. This is the first step in a series of charitable acts from the American "Hope" relief program to help Moldova.

Most of the load was medicines, medical equipment and instruments.

Kazakhstan

Tajik Delegation Arrives To Sign Trade Agreement

OW1201185593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Tajik delegation led by the country's Chairman of Parliament, Prime-Minister, and First Deputy Foreign Minister will arrive in Alma-Ata on Tuesday [12 January].

Kazakhstan's First Deputy Foreign Minister Salim Kurmangozhin [name as received] told INTERFAX that the visit would culminate in signing a long-term trading and economic agreement between the two countries.

On Wednesday the delegation is scheduled to meet President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Chairman of the Kazakh Parliament Serikbolsyn Abdildin, and Prime-Minister Sergey Tereshchenko of Kazakhstan.

Rakhmonov Signs Agreements

LD1301180593 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The new leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan headed by Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov has made its first official visit to Kazakhstan. The state delegation from the fraternal republic, which arrived in Alma-Ata the previous evening, started work this morning. It held negotiations with the government, the National State Bank, and a number of ministries and departments of Kazakhstan.

Imamali Rakhmonov had a meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev. They had a conversation in an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding. The head of the Tajik parliament reported on measures being taken by the republic's authorities to ease the serious consequences of the internal conflict and to normalize the political and economic situation in the country. He expressed sincere gratitude to the president for the invitation to visit Kazakhstan and the confidence that the visit will be fruitful in all aspects.

Nursultan Nazarbayev confirmed Kazakhstan's adherence to the decisions taken by the heads of state of the region at their recent meeting in Tashkent on stepping up moral support to the constitutional authorities of Tajikistan and on giving it humanitarian aid in various forms.

Nursultan Nazarbayev and Imamali Rakhmonov signed a treaty on foundations for relations between the republics of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan which will undoubtedly give a new stimulus for cooperation of the two neighboring states and will place it on a higher level.

Imamali Rakhmonov was also received by Supreme Soviet Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin. During their

meeting they emphasized the great significance of contacts between the parliaments of the two states as an important factor in strengthening mutual ties.

A commercial and economic agreement was concluded from the results of the negotiations at inter-governmental level. It was signed by Kazakhstan Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and Council of Ministers Chairman Abdumalik Abdullodzhonov. Accords were also reached on other directions of mutually advantageous bilateral cooperation.

Imamali Rakhmonov and Sergey Tereshchenko held a news conference for journalists. On the same day the state delegation of Tajikistan left Alma-Ata for Bishkek.

Rakhmonov: War Will Not Resume

LD1301231093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1720 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Konstantin Borodinov for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata January 13 TASS—Tajik Parliament Speaker Imamali Rakhmonov believes the inter-ethnic war in his Central Asian republic will not resume.

"Confidence emerged that the bitter lessons of the fratricidal conflict will not repeat themselves", he told a press conference on Wednesday after discussing with Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko humanitarian aid to his republic.

Rakhmonov called on all Tajik refugees to return back home.

"Kazakhstan will do everything to help Tajikistan arise from the complicated economic situation", Tereshchenko said adding that the first trainload of flour, sugar, cereals and other foodstuffs would leave for Tajikistan already tomorrow.

Delegation Returns From Successful Talks in Pakistan

LD1301211493 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] A Kazakhstan delegation led by Transport Minister Nigmatzhan Isingarlin has returned from Pakistan with good news. The Pakistan side showed a good deal of interest in the guests' visit. They met President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz and other heads of ministries and departments.

The first session of the Kazakhstan-Pakistan intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical, and cultural cooperation was held in Islamabad. It was set up in accordance with the inter-governmental protocol signed during a visit by President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

As a result of talks, important documents were signed envisaging cooperation in various areas: oil and natural

resources, communications and power engineering, agriculture and machine building, and health care and science. Proposals for exporting and importing goods and setting up joint enterprises were examined.

An agreement on principles for cooperation in the field of transport plans the opening of direct air and road links between Kazakhstan and Pakistan. Working groups will meet in the very near future to conclude specific agreements and contracts.

Parliament Passes Laws on Border, Border Guards

LD1301183093 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The ninth session of the Supreme Kenges resumed its work today. At the morning sitting, under the chairmanship of Serikbolsyn Abdildin, discussion started on a number of issues connected with military construction. A report on the draft law on the state border was delivered by Commander of Border Guards Bulat Zakiyev. After article by article voting, the law was adopted in full. A law was also adopted on border guards. A report on this was delivered by the Bulat Baykenov, chairman of the Committee of National Security. [passage omitted]

The evening sitting heard a report by (Almazbek Abdrahmanov), deputy chief of staff of the armed forces, on a draft law on general servicemen's duties, and military and alternative services. The sitting started article by article discussion of the document.

Prime Minister Requests IAEA Enrollment

LD1401095593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0744 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata January 14 TASS—Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko has sent a message to Hans Blix, director general of the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), stating the desire of his country to join this world organisation and its adherence to principles of the IAEA charter.

The Kazakh Government also said in the letter that it wanted to begin negotiations with the IAEA on putting peaceful nuclear facilities on its territory under IAEA control.

Tereshchenko Attends National Security Meeting

OW1401002093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1850 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [12 January] Premier Sergey Tereshchenko attended a session of the National Security Committee (NSC) Collegium where the activities of the NSC units in 1992 were scrutinized and priorities set for 1993.

The Premier appreciated the contribution made by the NSC to the country's foreign political and economic successes, fighting organized crime, and maintaining social and political stability. On the other hand, he mentioned "certain weak points".

Nazarbayev, Scientists Discuss Agriculture Issues

LD1301174793 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Nursultan Nazarbayev has met a group of agrarian specialists led by Ganiy Kaliyev, president of the Kazakh Academy of Agricultural Sciences. They discussed one of the most important aspects of the scientists' work—the concept for developing the agro-industrial complex of Kazakhstan which they recently completed formulating. Having studied this fundamental work, the head of state spoke highly of it, on the whole. [passage omitted] However, it emerged during the conversation that there are quite a number of areas in the scientists' work demanding clarification and further work.

It is no secret that the area sown to grain in Kazakhstan is declining. Last year, for example, grain was sown on only 22.7 million hectares, compared with the recent record of 25.7 million. The scientists are proposing to continue this trend in the future, and in the long term to remove low-yielding land from the rotation of crops.

However, there is no guarantee that this will not lead to a reduction in the gross amount of grain harvested. For various reasons there may be a large amount of breadgrain which is not harvested in both dry years and in years when the weather is favorable. This causes scientists to think, the president noted. The area sown to breadgrain must only be reduced as new higher yield and reliable varieties of grain are introduced and as the general level of farming is improved. [passage omitted]

The result of the interesting exchange of opinions was a decision to do further work on the concept and then discuss it carefully at a later date.

Baltash Tursumbayev, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, took part in the meeting.

President Sets Up Economic Reform Council

OW1401000893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1849 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev decreed the setting up of a National Council of Economic Reform. Its

Deputy Chairman will be the First Deputy Premier responsible for economic reforms. The Council membership will include the Ministers of Finance and Economy, Chairman of the National Bank Board, Chairman of the Committee on State Property, and Chairman of the Committee on Anti-monopoly Policies.

The Economic Policy Department of the President's and Cabinet's headquarters will be made subordinate to the Council whose terms of reference include urgent anti-crisis measures and sweeping economic reforms which will need proper legislative and organizational backing.

The Council's decisions within its scope will be faithfully implemented by all state and economic management bodies.

The President has also signed a decree On Transforming the State Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Support of New Economic Structures and Curbing Monopolistic Practices into a State Committee on Anti-monopoly Policies.

The State Committee on Anti-monopoly Policies will be a central body of state management under the Cabinet of Ministers. By the same decree the Entrepreneurship and Competition Encouragement Foundation is subordinated to the Ministry of Economy.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: This agency was set up by a presidential decree of January 11 to replace the former State Committee on Economy. The new Ministry will be headed by Beysenbay Izteleutov who had chaired the Higher Economic Council under the President.

The decree explains that an anti-monopoly Committee is needed "to reactivate the demonopolization and tighten the control over the observance of fair competition rules and over the processes of cooperation and merger of economic structures". The Committee will be chaired by Pyotr Svoiyik.

IF Note: An ethnic Russian, he was born in 1947. Graduated from the Alma-Ata Power Engineering Institute, specialized in thermal power stations and became a Cand.Sc. (Engg.). His first job was an electrician. He started his career in the All-Union Research and Design Institute of Power Engineering as a technician and became a chief power station design engineer. In 1988 he was appointed Director of the Uralsk Power Station. Elected to the Kazakh Parliament, he served on the Parliament's Economic Reform, Budget, and Finances Committee in 1990 and is now on the Presidential Advisory Council.

Decree Signed on Opening 13 Embassies

OW1201162693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed decrees to open embassies in former Soviet republics, including the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Under the president's decrees, Kazakhstan will open its embassies in Germany, France and Iran. Earlier, Alma-Ata announced that it is opening its embassies in the USA, Turkey and China.

Space Research Agency Chief Appointed

PM1401114793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Ladin report under the "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "T. Aubakirov Appointed General Director of Kazakhstan Space Research Agency"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—An edict of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan has appointed Hero of the Soviet Union Pilot-Cosmonaut Major General of Aviation Tokhtar Aubakirov general director of the Space Research Agency and deputy minister of science and new technologies.

In this connection he has been released from the post of first deputy defense minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan

Armed Tajik 'Revolutionaries' Reportedly in Kyrgyzstan

MK1301164893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 93 p 3

[Igor Rotar report: "Central Asia: Unpleasant Surprise for Bishkek. Tajik Opposition in Kyrgyzstan"]

[Text] As announced, groups of refugees from Tajikistan have appeared on Kyrgyz territory (and according to some reports, they are armed), urging the local population to fight for an Islamic state.

This is the first manifestation of the Tajik "sickness" on the territory of the adjacent Central Asian state. How great is the threat of "revolution being exported" to the neighboring republic?

One can say with certainty that Bishkek is not threatened with the Islamic option. Unlike the Uzbeks and the Tajiks, the Kyrgyz—who were previously nomadic cattle farmers—have never been fervent Muslims. These people have retained a host of heathen ceremonies; Islam is not a way of life, but is practiced on a purely domestic level. Moreover, even the rites are not observed overly strictly. Thus, the most zealous visitors to Bishkek's

mosque are Uzbeks. Scientists' studies confirm the "irreligiousness" of the Kyrgyz. According to Bishkek Polytechnical Institute sociologists' figures, only 10 percent of the Kyrgyz in Osh Oblast are in favor of setting up an Islamic republic.

Admittedly, there is another side to the problem. Thus, Uzbeks have lived for centuries in that part of the Fergana Valley in Osh Oblast. The Uzbek population is far more religious than the Kyrgyz. Thus, according to data from the same sociological study, 25 percent of Uzbeks in the oblast favor an Islamic state. The Islamic Revival Party—the backbone of which comprises Uzbeks is active—in the Kyrgyz part of the Fergana Valley.

The situation is complicated by the consequences of the tragedy in Osh. The local population has not forgotten the bloody clash between Uzbeks and Kyrgyz that cost the lives of 320 people. On the anniversary of the tragedy the militia are put on combat readiness—the relatives of the dead may avenge themselves. Moreover, another clash may be even more terrible than the previous one. Both sides are well armed, so that their adversaries cannot take them unawares.

Naturally, in this situation the appearance of Tajik "revolutionaries," many of whom may be armed, comes as a fairly unpleasant surprise for Bishkek.

On the other hand, the Kyrgyz authorities' current attempts to close the border with Tajikistan are by no means having unequivocal results. The Osh highway joining the Pamirs and Kyrgyzstan is in effect the only route along which Tajik oppositionists can escape from attacking government detachments. Following the closure of the Tajik-Kyrgyz border oppositionists have found themselves trapped. These well-armed people may take the most desperate measures to save their lives.

IMF Special Delegation Arrives in Bishkek

OW1301214593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1511 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A special delegation of the IMF has arrived in Bishkek to hold final talks on the agreement concerning financial and technical aid for promoting the market reform in Kyrgyzstan.

Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Askar Sarygulov told INTERFAX that following the conclusion of the agreement and its approval by the IMF Council in February or March, Bishkek may obtain loans worth 200 million to 250 million dollars.

To quote Sarygulov, following the Paris conference of the Paris Club in the middle of December, representatives of the World Bank stated that their bank intended to extend a soft loan to Kyrgyzstan. In 1993 Kyrgyzstan is expected to receive 60 million dollars for a term of 10

years, on a ten-year installment plan and at an annual interest rate of 0.75%. From 1994 to 1996, the World Bank intends to give Kyrgyzstan 60 million to 80 million dollars on the same terms.

During the Paris conference, the main donor states - Japan, the US, Germany, Switzerland and Kuwait - confirmed their readiness to give financial and humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan, and to extend soft loans to it.

Sarygulov also announced that in 1993 the total worth of technical aid extended to Kyrgyzstan will amount from 50 million to 70 million dollars. He said that technical aid is expected to include consultative services to the government, banks and enterprises, as well as the training and re-training of specialists in agriculture, banking services, management, taxing and customs operations. Foreign experts are expected to help Kyrgyzstan to make feasibility studies of investment projects related to economic restructuring.

Akayev Edict Eases Labor Migration Regulations

PM1401100993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Ryabushkin report: "Leaving Kyrgyzstan For Jobs"]

[Text] Bishkek—Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev has signed an edict "On Questions of the Republic's State Policy in the Sphere of Foreign Labor Migration" which opens up the freedom to leave the country. A contract with a foreign firm will now be considered sufficient grounds for departure.

Who will primarily be exercising this right? The people trying their luck abroad will most probably be highly skilled specialists from the former Kyrgyz Mining Combine, who used to extract and process natural uranium. One of the largest enterprises under the USSR Ministry of Medium Machine Building using advanced technology, it has now fallen on hard times. Many people who want to work abroad can also be found at other defense complex enterprises, where whole shops are standing idle and loads of engineers have no work to do.

Switzerland Grants Interest-Free 6-Year Loan

OW1201223493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1947 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Switzerland has granted Kyrgyzstan an interest-free loan of 1.17 million dollars for a duration of six years. An agreement on this was reached between the governments of the two countries. This information was given to INTERFAX by the chairman of the state committee on foreign economic relations of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Sarigulov.

This money will be used for the payment of the entry fee for the entrance of Kyrgyzstan into international organizations of the group of the World Bank, in particular, the International Financial Corporation.

Tajikistan

Government Controls 'Virtually the Whole' Republic

LD1401100293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Tajik Government forces are carrying out an operation to liberate mountainous regions of the Garm group from illegal armed formations. By today Ragun and neighboring villages had been completely liberated. The first consignment of food and medical supplies has been delivered to these regions. It is clear from the government reports that virtually the whole of the territory of the Republic is under the control of government forces.

Famine Threatens Mountain Areas; Refugees Die in South

PM1201110393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jan 93 p 2

[Correspondent Aleksandr Pelts report: "Tajikistan: Aid Coming In, But Threat of Famine Is Real"]

[Text] This terrible prospect primarily awaits the inhabitants of the Pamir and the Garm range's mountain regions. Stocks of bread, other foodstuffs, and fuel—i.e. the most basic essentials for life in the mountains—are now practically exhausted there. The first sick people have appeared and they are all diagnosed as suffering from the same thing—systematic malnutrition.

The republic government is doing all it can to deliver food. Nevertheless, it will hardly have time to transfer all that is necessary before the passes are closed. Incidentally, the humanitarian aid which the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan are granting Tajikistan could not have been timelier in the situation which has developed. For example, the other day an An-26 cargo plane arrived in Khorog from Termez (Uzbekistan), delivering a large consignment of sugar, medicines, and children's clothing. Earlier Uzbekistan had already sent more than two tonnes of flour to Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

Tajikistan has received 24 million rubles of humanitarian aid from Kyrgyzstan. It consists of more than 200 tonnes of condensed milk, 13 tonnes of butter, equipment, and clothing. Taking its neighbor's difficulties into consideration, Turkmenistan is selling Tajikistan gas at prices 40 percent below world prices.

But the threat of famine has still not been removed. In desperation the local population is using assault rifles to

hunt protected Pamir animals and is using valuable medicinal shrubs and almond groves for fuel.

I should add that the refugees who are now in the republic's south, in the Panj border detachment's region, are experiencing a similar tragedy. Thousands of people have already died here from hunger, cold, epidemics, and the brigandage of fundamentalist gunmen. It is thought that around 3,000 have drowned in the Panj River on the border while attempting to flee to Afghanistan.

Aid Reaches Pamir Settlements

LD1301133493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1221 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 13 TASS—The Pamir settlements of Obigarm and Rogun, controlled by government forces since Tuesday [12 January] evening, have begun receiving food aid for the local population, which was on the brink of hunger as a result of the blockade imposed by the armed opposition.

The first caravan of food, fuel and other essential goods has already left Dushanbe for Rogun under the guard of the Russian armour, the staff headquarters of the 201st Motor-Rifle Division informed ITAR-TASS.

Humanitarian aid to residents of these regions will be increased by order of the Tajik Government. At the same time the rule of the legal authorities is being restored in areas now free of the armed opposition.

The social and political situation in the south-eastern region of the republic continues to be complicated and indefinite, according to a report issued by the National Security Committee of Tajikistan.

According to National Security Service operational reports, anti-government groups are continuing to hold up in Pamir hills, indulging in looting and terrorising the local population.

A part of armed opposition groups, which refused to surrender arms and forced out by government forces from Rogan Obigarm, has also left for the hills.

Government Clears Armed Groups From Garm Region

LD1401062493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0609 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By KHOVAR news agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe January 14 TASS—The government forces of Tajikistan have begun to free high-mountain areas of Garm region from unlawful armed groups. The step has been undertaken at the request of local residents who "until recently have been terrorised by armed bandits who resist the constitutional authority, engage in

plunder and kill civilians," Abdumajid Dostiyev, first deputy speaker of the Tajik parliament, told KHOVAR.

By Thursday the government forces have fully freed the city of Rogun and nearby kishlaks (villages). The first batches of food and medicines have been delivered there.

At present practically the entire territory of the republic is under the control of government forces, Dostiyev said.

Iran Sends Humanitarian Aid to Badakhshan Area

LD0801135893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran January 8 TASS—Iran has shipped more than 40 tonnes of flour in humanitarian aid to the population of Tajikistan's Badakhshan autonomous region and more than 200,000 refugees who fled to Badakhshan from the horrors of war in other regions of the republic.

According to IRNA news agency, a convoy of trucks with flour arrived in the region's administrative centre this week. The convoy had to travel across Kyrgyzstan because the only road linking Dushanbe to Khorog is inoperable.

According to IRNA, Iran plans to send a shipment of fuel for public transport in the Tajik capital in the next few days.

Tensions 'High' in Dushanbe; Buses Running Again

OW1301163993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1511 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite some stabilization, tensions in the capital of Tajikistan remain high, and so the National Security Committee set up confidence telephones. According to its press center, local citizens are now in a position to receive advice on all issues concerning the ensurance of their personal safety and national security around-the-clock.

In the meantime, when the pro-government units forced opposition groupings out of the areas east of Dushanbe, buses began to cruise again between the capital and Kofarnihon, the stronghold of militants from the Islamic Renaissance Party. In addition, buses began to cruise between Dushanbe, Tursun-Zade and Kurgan-Tyube.

Food Aid Consignment Arrives in Dushanbe

PM1401100193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By Alisher Khodzhayev, Mikhail Nikulin, and Abdushukur Salomov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Khodzhayev] Dushanbe, which is currently experiencing serious problems in providing food for the people, has welcomed the arrival of 76 railcars from Leninabad Oblast. The railcars are carrying 500 tonnes of flour, 180 tonnes of rice, 10 tonnes of butter, children's clothing, footwear, agricultural produce—items to a total value of more than 300 million rubles. It was planned to sell these highly perishable riches at open-air markets at moderate prices. However, civilized trading proved impossible to organize. People have been deprived of the opportunity to purchase the most basic necessities for too long now. The Dushanbe City Executive Committee promptly amended the proposal. The entire incoming cargo was taken to storehouses. As of today, produce and goods will be sold through the trade network in line with the existing distribution guidelines. A little for everyone—it is the only fair way, said the city's mayor. Part of the produce and clothing was donated by the citizens of Leninabad to children's homes and hospitals free of charge. And very soon, a further 1,500 tonnes of fruit and vegetables will arrive in Dushanbe from North Tajikistan.

Official Denies Allegations of Widespread Executions

OW1301234293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy speaker of the Tajik parliament Abdurakhman Mukhtashev in an interview with Interfax has denied media reports about the widespread execution of opposition members in Dushanbe. Tajik opposition members in Moscow also spoke of a wave of executions at a recent news conference in the Russian capital.

Mukhtashev said that allegations about a government crackdown on the opposition were concocted by "dishonest reporters" inviting "all journalists to come to Dushanbe to witness the truth for themselves".

At the same time, the Tajik official spoke of the enormous damage to the country's economy from the civil war. Various counts put the number of dead and missing from 20,000 to 100,000 and economic damage at billions of roubles. "We rely on aid from Central Asian states and Russia, Mukhtashev said adding that Tajikistan "will not remain indebted".

Russian Soldier Killed in Nurek

OW1201132993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1207
GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The body of a brutally killed Russian soldier was found in the Tajik city of Nurek. On December 24, the soldier had disappeared from his unit, which was guarding the Nurek Hydro-Power Plant. Twenty four hours later the commanders began to look for him.

At the end of last year, three Russian servicemen were taken hostage and brutally killed. Servicemen claim that they have no proper safety guarantees in Tajikistan.

Economy Minister Emphasizes Return of Refugees

LD1401064993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0622
GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 14 TASS—Ismail Davlatov, Tajikistan's minister for the economy, named the earliest return of refugees to their places of permanent residence as one of his top priorities in order to get rid of the social and economic crisis.

Elaborating on this, the minister clarified in an interview with the weekly "COOPERATIV VYESTNIK" that one of the reasons for the sharp fall (in the first quarter) of industrial and agricultural produce is the fact that as a result of forced migration, caused by the political instability in the recent past, entire regions of the republic were left without labour resources.

According to Davlatov, in Kurgan-Tyube district alone the number of refugees constituted above a quarter of a million, and in the entire republic this number exceeded 600 thousand. At present, according to the minister, thanks to the stabilization of the social and political situation in the former zones of armed conflict, large social concessions, including long-term, interest-free credits worth 100 thousand roubles, provided by the government to each family as well as government guarantees of personal security, a large-scale return of refugees to their homes has begun.

The minister for the economy spoke in favour of similar effective measures with regard to the outflow from Tajikistan of the Russian-speaking population, a majority of which constitutes highly qualified specialists. About 50 thousand Russian-speaking citizens have left the country during the last few months, he noted, which has caused the republic not only economic, but also moral harm in the eyes of the world community.

Rakhmonov Leaves for Visit to Kazakhstan

LD1201195693 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in
Tajik 1700 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] A Tajik state delegation led by Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov left today for Alma-Ata on an official visit.

The delegation comprises Abdullodzhonov, chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers; [names indistinct], deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers; Mirzoyev, head of the office of the Council of Ministers; Homidov, chairman of the executive committee of Leninabad Oblast; ministers; experts; and journalists.

Documents will be signed on the results of talks between the leaders of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, which will specify relations between the two states on many issues, including trade and economics.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Rakhmonov Interviewed

PM1201130393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet, by correspondent U. Babakhanov; place and date of interview not given: "It Seems Tajikistan Will Manage Without the 'Blue Helmets'"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] At the entrance to the Tajik capital to this day there stands a smashed truck—burnt to the ground, warped, and riddled with bullet holes. The symbol of a once sunny region...

Last year various people tried to sit at the "steering wheel" of sovereign Tajikistan—weak old men who could not tell a red light from a green light, and spirited young men. The result was tragic: During the seven months of the conflict as many people died as the mountain republic lost in four years of the Great Patriotic War.

Imamali Rakhmonov, a 40-year-old economist, recently director of a Kulyab Oblast collective farm, the father of six daughters and one son, has been elected the new head of state. The new chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet answers our correspondent's questions.

[Babakhanov] Imamali Sharifovich, the conflict in Tajikistan is often depicted as a struggle of the democratic forces against the party nomenklatura. What do you think of that?

[Rakhmonov] A legal secular power has arrived, elected by constitutional means at the recent parliament session. Already 90 percent of all the republic's rayons have stated their support for the session's decisions. That includes the Gornyy Badakhshan Oblast soviet, although there the deputies had to hold their session under the muzzles of the opposition's assault rifles. As for coverage of Tajik problems in the mass media, I shall take this

opportunity to invite journalists to come to the republic and see everything with their own eyes.

After all, our opponents have manipulated public opinion from the outset. At the first meetings they hung up portraits of Gorbachev and Yeltsin and advocated a union with democratic Russia. But they only had to come to power for Russia to be declared a country of kafir—of infidels—and the transmission of Russian and Uzbek television was stopped and then the withdrawal of the Russian division from Tajik territory was demanded.

The chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan declares the republic's entire Russian-speaking population are hostages. The leaders of the Islamic Revival Party demand that the Supreme Soviet accept their demands. And when parliament does not obey, they take hostage 17 deputies and members of parliament. Is that democracy? Or perhaps Mullo Abdullo and Mullo Abdugaffor and other opposition leaders who fled the republic on the helicopters of the Afghan Mujahidin were democrats?

So let's avoid cliches. There has been a spontaneous movement of the people against those who wanted to usurp power and impose an Islamic fundamentalist regime by force on the people. Incidentally, there is no procommunist regime in Tajikistan, nor could there be now. We want to build a secular, democratic, rule-of-law state.

[Babakhanov] What is your attitude toward Islam?

[Rakhmonov] Each person, each people, has its own god. We are Muslims. No one has the right to forbid people to enter the mosque or observe traditions and rites. I am in favor of that. But let the Muslim judges concern themselves with religion and not state affairs and politics. After all, look at other Eastern countries: Wherever Muslim radicals enter the political arena, there is bloodshed.

[Babakhanov] But what if the opposition has retreated to gather strength and to switch to a counteroffensive again after a while?

[Rakhmonov] I am prepared to meet the fundamentalists "ceremonially." We have the forces and the funds for that. Incidentally, we know where they are and, if we wanted, we could use tanks and artillery and rapidly resolve the question with them. But we are not doing this. Because completely innocent people, the villages' civilian population, will die again. There have already been too many casualties.

[Babakhanov] Is the question of the introduction of the CIS "blue helmets" into the republic still on the agenda?

[Rakhmonov] We are now coping with our own forces. The people have supported us. And they are the main force. So perhaps the introduction of peacekeeping forces will not be needed. Nonetheless, the meeting in Minsk will discuss the question of the situation in Tajikistan, after all the Tajik-Afghan border is also the

CIS' southern border. That is well understood in Alma-Ata, in Moscow, in Tashkent, and in the other CIS capitals.

[Babakhanov] Are the Russian troops stationed in the republic needed now?

[Rakhmonov] Yes, they are. They are a stabilizing factor.

[Babakhanov] Mr chairman, what kind of army does sovereign Tajikistan need?

[Rakhmonov] We need air defense, strong border troops, and air force subunits.

[Babakhanov] Despite all the efforts of the new government, looting and pillaging are still continuing in the capital and in the republic as a whole...

[Rakhmonov] Unfortunately, that is true... Under the badge of subunits of the People's Front and the Internal Affairs Ministry some people are engaging in shady business. To purge Dushanbe and a number of adjacent regions of all kinds of groupings and to collect weapons we have introduced martial law here. Some groupings have already been disarmed and sent home. We are putting the looters on trial.

[Babakhanov] Today you are the number one man in a troubled republic stuffed with weapons. Are you not afraid?

[Rakhmonov] I used to be afraid when I saw the atrocities committed by the "Tajik democrats"—the tortured old men, the young women who had been raped, the woman who, insane with fear, had left her house and only came to her senses after traveling several hundred kilometers to remember that she had left her baby behind in its cradle. Can there be anything more terrible than that?

[Babakhanov] They say that you still spend the night in your office. What about your family?

[Rakhmonov] You know, to be honest I have no time right now to think about my family. Sometimes, when things are very hard... In general I shall decide that question when the situation returns to normal.

All-Republican Meeting Discusses Sociopolitical Situation

LD0901210693 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] An all-republican meeting was held in Dushanbe city today. The meeting was attended by members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers; the chairmen of executive committees of the soviets of peoples deputies of oblast, town, and rayon; representatives of the law enforcement bodies, social organizations and military (?units); workers of science, literature, and culture; responsible officials from the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers.

Participants discussed the sociopolitical situation in the republic and the ways of overcoming the economic crises.

Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, presented a report on the issue.

Rakhmonov Says 90 Percent of Regions Support Leadership

LD1301102593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Ninety percent of all regions in Tajikistan have expressed support for the new leadership of the republic. Newsmen were told that by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, Imamali Rakhmonov. He said there took place a spontaneous movement of the people against those who wanted to seize power and impose an Islamic fundamentalist regime by force. At the same time, he stressed that there was not and could no longer be a pro-Communist regime in the republic.

Speaking about the introduction of the Blue Helmets of the Commonwealth of Independent States into Tajikistan, he said the new leadership was in control of the situation, so they might not be required.

Turkmenistan

Dollar-Tied Manat Bringing Economic Stability

PM1301120193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: "President of Turkmenistan Believes Manat Will Be Reliable Currency"]

[Text] Ashgabat—A group of specialists, including some from Britain, is working on behalf of President S. Niyazov of Turkmenistan. Its task is the phased introduction of the new Turkmen monetary unit—the manat. In the specialists' opinion, it must correspond in direct proportion to one of the stable currencies of the developed countries—for example, one manat equals one U.S. dollar.

Of course, it is no simple matter to achieve convertibility, but, according to Niyazov, Turkmenistan has all the possibilities and the necessary potential for ensuring the high reliability and stability of the national currency. "We are only now starting to realize how great our economic potential is," the president of Turkmenistan emphasized. "For example, new oil and gas deposits have been prospected in the republic, and deposits of lignite, coal, and mineral salts have been discovered. There are large reserves of iodine and bromine waters, construction materials, bentonite, and other natural resources. There are workings of valuable strategic raw materials and gold-bearing ores. If you count up all our national wealth at world prices, it turns out that there is \$2,500 for each of Turkmenistan's 4 million inhabitants—from infants to nonworking old people. What

happens if you convert this \$2,500 into rubles at today's rate? So our national currency's convertibility will be founded on a sound economic basis...."

It is proposed to bring the manat into circulation as early as July of this year. It has been decided, however, that with the introduction of the national currency in Turkmenistan rubles will not stop circulating freely on its territory. This is required, above all, by transactions with enterprises in the CIS countries and by the established traditional economic ties.

For a full-value currency policy the president of Turkmenistan has decided to open a national mint in Ashgabat, where manats will be printed. An instruction has been given to conclude a contract with foreign firms for delivery of the necessary equipment and organization of the printing of Turkmen money, securities, and shares. All this, it is thought in Turkmenistan, will help to protect the national economy against growing ruble inflation, to stabilize the situation in pricing policy, and to balance the amounts of money and commodities in Turkmenistan.

Uzbekistan

Turkish Envoy on Commonwealth of Central Asian States

OW1201175393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkey supports the idea of the creation of a Commonwealth of peoples of Central Asia which "opens the possibility of joint resolution of problems". This was announced in a press release in Uzbekistan by the ambassador of Turkey to Uzbekistan, Volkan Cotur, in connection with the recent meeting of leaders of the countries of the region in Tashkent.

V. Cotur emphasized that the participation of the leadership of Tajikistan in the meeting had been significant since "with the help of friendly states the people of that country can more quickly come to peace and agreement and attain a stabilization of the situation." Implementing the decisions of the Tashkent meeting, in the opinion of V. Cotur, will raise the international prestige of countries of this region and permit them to join the international integration process.

German Bank Official Arrives on Visit

LD1201142493 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1202 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tashkent, 12 Jan—An official delegation from the German Deutsche Bank arrived in Tashkent today. It is led by Horst Glazer, the bank's vice president. This visit is connected with the need to coordinate links between the Deutsche Bank and the Central Bank of Uzbekistan.

Similar ties were recently set up with the Moscos Narodnyy Bank in London and the Union of Swiss Banks. Preparations are in hand for the Central Bank of Uzbekistan to open accounts in the U.S. Reserve Bank and the central banks of France, India and Pakistan. Representatives of Deutsche Bank also intend to hold a seminar on working with convertible currency for staff at Uzbekistan's commercial banks.

Cabinet Implements Agriculture Incentives

LD1401031193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Tashkent reports that the Uzbekistan Government has drawn up a new program for deepening economic reforms [words indistinct]. It is a question first of all of eliminating in the course of this year over 500 loss-making and low-profitability state farms and of creating new forms of cooperation.

A decision of the cabinet provides for the implementation of a set of measures to provide economic incentives for the previous collectives, private farms, and family farms.

Tashkent Plans for Energy Industry Noted

OW1301140693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1208 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A general program has been worked out in Uzbekistan for the development of the republic's power industry until the year 2010, which provides for Uzbekistan's secession from the single Central Asian power generation system.

According to the Uzbek Energy and Electrification Ministry, there is no longer any need for the republic to remain in the Central Asian grid, in view of the diminished exchange of electricity between the region's republics and the introduction of transactions practices between them.

The program provides for increasing electricity generation in Uzbekistan, mainly by thermal power stations, from last year's 52 billion kwh to 96 kwh in 2010. Hydroelectric stations will also be built on rivers and canals, and solar and wind energy will be used.

Armenia

Premier Discusses Results of Moscow-Yerevan Summit

OW1401000293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1849
GMT 13 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime minister Khosrov Arutyunyan told Interfax that Russia was planning to export 100,000 tonnes of fuel oil to Armenia within months with the use of all transport possibilities. He also hopes that Russia can help with gas supplies. Commenting on the outcome of recent Armenian-Russian summit talks in Moscow, the prime minister put Russia's planned exports of fuel oil, diesel fuel, and petrol to Armenia this year at 1,7 million tonnes, 300,000 tonnes and 150,000 tonnes respectively. This year's bilateral trade is to run at \$122 million.

Arutyunyan also said that Russia would provide a Rbl [ruble] 50 billion in loan guarantees for food and consumer imports and extra Rbl 7 billion to help restore the Spitak region devastated by the 1988 earthquake.

The prime minister praised the Russian government for its effort to try to help Armenian out of its energy crisis. He described economic leverage as being the most effective way of promoting further cooperation now. He is confident that bilateral talks on financial and economic issues will be continued in a positive key.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Part of the Armenian delegation led by state minister Vigen Chitechyan remains in Moscow to discuss ways of implementing the agreements reached. It is now known that the two sides are contemplating the idea of joint ventures in Armenia. For its part, Yerevan wants for mining and manufactured products to be transported under the Russian flag for safety reasons.

Arutyunyan said Ukraine had also agreed to supply a daily 7 billion cubic metres of gas from its own quotas. However, he complained that the existing network of gas pipelines was giving advantage to Georgia which "appropriates the lion's share of Armenian quotas." He regretted about the absence of a proper machinery to punish culprits, though admitting to the highhandedness that exists whenever the question is one of gas supplies. He said that gas pipelines were being increasingly used as a leverage for political gains. At the same time, Arutyunyan said both Armenia and Georgia were trying to build their relationship to mutual advantage. He spoke of realising how serious the situation in Georgia was and of the two countries' commitment to try to resolve controversial issues in a civilised way.

Official Calls Trip 'Productive'

OW1301191793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816
GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ruben Shugaryan, the press secretary of the Armenian President, assessed the visit of the Armenian delegation headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to Moscow on January 10-11 as "a rather productive and useful one." We should seriously assess the agreements reached in Moscow," he said at a press conference in Yerevan on Wednesday [13 January].

Shugaryan reported that during the negotiations in Moscow the parties, in particular, considered the issues concerning the prolongation of the peacemaking efforts of Russia to settle the Karabakh conflict. According to Shugaryan, Russia does not object to consider this issue in the UN Security Council if Azerbaijan "once again ruins" the peacemaking process in the framework of the CSCE.

At the same time the press secretary noted a relative activation of the peacekeeping efforts in the framework of the CSCE stressing the positive role of two great powers - the United States and Russia. Shugaryan believes that the joint statement on Nagorno-Karabakh voiced by presidents of both countries, George Bush and Boris Yeltsin, on January 3 in Moscow should be viewed in this context.

Shugaryan reported that Mario Rafaelli, the chairman of the Minsk conference in the settlement of the Karabakh issue in the framework of the CSCE, is expected to arrive to Yerevan on January 24.

Talks 'Another Step' to Peace

PM1301165593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in
Russian 12 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Iskandaryan: "Russia-Armenia: Talks Between the Two Countries' Leaders"]

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan had meetings in Moscow on 10 and 11 January with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The delegation from Armenia was a high-level one: It included republic Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan and several state ministers. It was a working meeting, at which various economic and political questions were discussed. It focused mainly on problems of economic collaboration between the two countries.

Armenia is in a deep economic crisis as a result of the blockade to which neighboring Azerbaijan is subjecting Armenia and the fact that it is virtually impossible to dispatch goods via Georgia. This has particularly affected the republic's energy industry, since it has no significant energy resources of its own. The discussion of

this topic occupied a large portion of the Russian-Armenian talks. Political aspects of relations were discussed and, of course, the presidents could not avoid talking about the Karabakh conflict.

Ties between Russia and Armenia are pretty close. Both sides are members of the CIS and of the collective security system within the CIS. Moreover, they are linked by a number of treaties. Certainly, Armenia is one of Russia's most obvious allies in its region—as confirmed by repeated Armenian leadership statements. As a result of the blockade of Armenia Russia has been practically deprived of the opportunity to develop economic relations with it and supply it with food and fuel. Nonetheless, nearly everything that reaches Armenia in one way or another comes from Russia, although it cannot be said that there is a surplus of food or power in Russia itself.

The development of relations in the political sphere is fraught too. Despite the fact that relations between Russia and Armenia are absolutely fine, the Karabakh conflict is significantly hampering all the political processes in the Transcaucasus region. The goodwill steps that the Russian leadership and President Yeltsin have been taking have not led to appreciable results so far, unfortunately. Nonetheless, the Zheleznovodsk process did start on the Russian president's initiative. And it was the only process within which there were talks between the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides.

The latest initiative in connection with the Karabakh conflict was the joint statement by Presidents Yeltsin and Bush. A great deal of attention was paid to this statement at the talks. The road to peace is long and hard in this chronic conflict, but it is a road that must be followed. Yet another step has now been taken in that direction.

Strategically Important Height Said Recaptured

*NC1301195093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] ARMENPRES reported today that following a joint operation by the self-defense forces and border guard detachments, the Kendzasar strategic height in Tavushskiy Rayon was recaptured. The enemy captured it on 29 December 1992 at the cost of enormous losses and then used it to shell virtually all villages in the rayon.

During the battles, which started in the morning, the enemy subjected the entire rayon and the rayon center to artillery, rocket, and tank fire. Two residents were killed and several were injured, one of whom died in the hospital. The shelling also caused destruction. Assistance was sent to [words indistinct]. Also, two Armenian fighters were injured, including the rayon's military commandant Lieutenant-Colonel Vazgen Kavalyan.

Yuriy Khachaturov, head of the border guard administration, announced that now our borders have been restored. The enemy lost scores of killed.

French Foreign Minister States Concern for Conflict

*NC1301172993 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International
Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas received a delegation of various Armenian associations in France. These associations asked the minister and the French Government to express their deep concern on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

The minister told them that France is interested and has taken an active part in the issue both politically and in terms of humanitarian assistance.

He also informed the delegation that the French president sent a letter to Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan expressing his concern for the situation in Armenia and highlighting that French ambassadors in various capitals involved in the issue have been instructed to appeal to authorities of the relevant countries to act in line with the spirit of his message issued in Turkey recently.

Dumas informed the representatives that he is corresponding with the interested parties in the region so that humanitarian assistance through the International Red Cross will arrive at its destination and the blockade of Armenia will be lifted.

He noted that France is working to find and is encouraging the solution of the crisis through dialogue at different forums, particularly within the CSCE and Minsk conference.

Azerbaijan

Russian Border Guards To Leave Positions in Country

*LD1401134393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240
GMT 14 Jan 93*

[By AZERTAC correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku/Moscow January 14 TASS—Russian border guards leave their positions on the territory of Azerbaijan. On Thursday the Lenkoran border-guarding detachment, which was earlier part of Russian frontier forces, passed under the subordination of the Border Troops Department of the Azerbaijani Ministry of National Security.

In the coming days the personnel of the Russian detachment together with part of equipment will be transported by trains to the territory of Russia.

Under an arrangement between Russia and Azerbaijan, equipment is being divided, and Russian border guards are being gradually replaced by Azerbaijani ones, a spokesman at the press service of the border troops of Russia told ITAR-TASS.

Only the Russian Prishib border-guarding detachment will continue to patrol the border in Azerbaijan for some time ahead. Russian border guards are due to leave the territory of Azerbaijan completely by August this year.

Defense Ministry Communique on Current Operations

NC1301192493 *Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri*
1700 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has issued the following communique:

The occupationist Armenian Armed Forces, which have failed to turn the combat situation in their favor along the entire battle front, have continued to fire on our nonstrategic and nonmilitary residential areas. Fizuli was hit with tank and Grad rocket fire for an entire hour yesterday. Several people were wounded.

Our sub-units in Fizulinskiy Rayon retaliated against the Armenian attack by dealing effective blows on enemy positions near Khodzhavend and Yukhary Veysalli early this morning. Four Armenian fortifications were destroyed and nearly 20 Armenian troops were killed in the six-hour clashes. The Azerbaijan Command Headquarters has taken additional measures to break the enemy's resistance.

The Armenian Armed Forces have systematically fired on our positions in the northwestern part of Azerbaijan for the last few weeks in an attempt to occupy the area. However, our military sub-units have dealt serious blows to advancing enemy units and have forced them to retreat. The Azerbaijan Command Headquarters has taken additional measures to completely break the enemy resistance.

The Armenian fighters, who continue to occupy a large part of Azerbaijani territory, are (treating) the local people mercilessly. They have evicted Azerbaijanis, Russians, Kurds, and other ethnic peoples from areas they have occupied. Meanwhile, local Armenians have become increasingly dissatisfied with the Armenian Armed Forces, which has led to armed clashes between them. Considering the shortage of provisions, the local Armenians wish to leave their homes and immigrate to foreign countries. None of the local population will remain in the occupied areas in Karabakh soon if this situation is allowed to continue.

National Assembly Discusses Limitations of Army Force

NC1401163893 *Baku TURAN in English* 1201 GMT
14 Jan 93

[Text] Baku 14 Jan (TURAN)—Yesterday the Milli Mejlis had accepted the amendment to the law "on armed forces of Azerbaijan."

According to the amendment if the parliament accepts the special decision Azeri Army will discharge not only

its duties. So the army may be used in a threat of a coup and during natural calamity.

The opposition has expressed its opinion against the amendment. The Chairman of the Party of the National Independence Etibar Mamedov said that "it gives the authority opportunity to use army against people and political opposition."

Elchibey Meets Leaders of Country's Political Parties

OW1401132893 *Moscow INTERFAX in English* 1223
GMT 14 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday, Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey met with the leaders of political parties. Formulating the tasks facing Azerbaijan, Elchibey said that the year 1993 is going to be a year of state development. Azerbaijan is to draft and adopt a new constitution, hold parliamentary elections, put a new currency into circulation and strengthen its defense capability.

The leaders of political parties proposed setting up a center that would coordinate the activity of all political forces.

Statement Issued on Russia's Concern Over Conflict

NC1301155093 *Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri*
1900 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text of statement by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has disclosed that Russia's leaders have been deeply concerned about the continuing combat operations on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the death of Azerbaijanis, Armenians, and other people as a result of the firing on residential areas. Stressing that the firing on Krasnodelski Rayon center in Armenia has made the Russians anxious, the disclosure said that the Russian people have protested the attacks.

Noting the Russian people's uneasiness, Azerbaijan's leaders have drawn the attention of Russia's leaders to Armenia's open aggression against Azerbaijan. The Russian-inhabited Novo-Ivanovka and Novo-Saratovka in Kedabekski Rayon have been subjected to intense artillery attacks from Armenia several times since 3 August 1992. The two towns are hundreds of kilometers away from the mountainous region in Karabakh and tens of kilometers away from the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The Russian population of the two towns has left their homes and sought temporary shelter in the homes of Russian and Azerbaijani citizens in Baku, Gendzha, and other towns. Russian refugees from towns close to Armenia's border have held a press conference at the

Azerbaijani mission in Moscow and provided indisputable evidence of the open aggression against Azerbaijan. They also tried to convey their [word indistinct] to the Russian people.

Reiterating their support for democratic development and respect for the rights of all the ethnic minorities in Azerbaijan and considering the will of the Azerbaijani people and the 450,000 Russian population, Azerbaijan's leaders sympathize with the Russian Foreign Ministry's disclosure.

Azerbaijan has used retaliatory measures only since Armenia launched its separatist activities, which have gradually been broadened and converted into open aggression. It has only tried to obstruct the occupation of its territory and the bloody attacks on its people. While rejecting Armenia's misleading propaganda campaign, Azerbaijan has the right to hope that the international community will realize the indisputable fact that the war has been fought in its territory for the past five years, part of it has been occupied, and the country that has been described as a death zone is responsible for the acts of aggression against Azerbaijan.

Reiterating the republic's support for a political solution to the dispute and disclosing its readiness to hold political talks at international level, Azerbaijan expresses the hope that the world's influential organizations will take more decisive measures to [words indistinct] and restore the desperately needed peace in the region.

President's Office Answers Column on Demirel Interview

*NC1301165793 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 11 Jan 93*

["Text" of Presidential Press Service disclosure on a 6 January SABAH column on an interview with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On 6 January, the Turkish daily SABAH carried a column on an interview with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel. It was publicized on page 1 as follows: [Azerbaijani President Abulfaz] Elchibey provoked by the KGB.

The column said: Fearing that the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict may create a confrontation between Turkey and the Western world, Demirel said that certain forces wish to heighten tension in the region. Demirel also said he told Elchibey that finding a solution to the dispute was essential. Furthermore, he stressed that Deputy Prime Minister Erdal Inonu also reminded Elchibey that the dispute had to be resolved. Demirel said: Elchibey is a very reasonable person; however, he is being provoked. Provocations are even made by the KGB. But, that is not all. Provocations are also being made from our country.

The column made waves in Turkey. We contacted our embassy in Turkey and asked for additional information after we received the text of the column. The employees

of SABAH called the Presidential Press Office and asked for President Elchibey's reaction on the night of 6 January. Elchibey described the matter as a misunderstanding and stressed that he did not believe that Suleyman Demirel made the remarks attributed to him.

Considering SABAH's column, and acting on the instructions he received from Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, Ozden Sanberk, an under secretary at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, invited Azerbaijani Ambassador to Turkey Mamed Aliyev to the ministry to brief him on the situation the next day. Ambassador Aliyev recalled past sensation-creating reports published by Turkish newspapers that could harm Azerbaijani-Turkish relations, and said that SABAH's column made Azerbaijan very uneasy.

Under Secretary Sanberk informed Ambassador Aliyev that Demirel's remarks were distorted. He recalled that Turkey has always supported Azerbaijan's just struggle against Armenian occupation and conveyed his sincere regards to Abulfaz Elchibey.

Furthermore, Suleyman Demirel made a disclosure on the column, which also noted that Turkey's strengthening position in the Caucasus has given momentum to efforts to enhance peace and security in the region. However, Demirel also stressed that certain circles in the Caucasus are opposed to this and pointed to the possibility that obstacles [words indistinct]. The activities of various overt and covert groups are included among these obstacles.

The explanation that was given also said: For a long time, Turkey has made serious initiatives for peace and security in the Caucasus region. It has established close cooperation at many levels with the CSCE for that purpose. It has also established bilateral cooperation with Russia and other countries in the region for that purpose. President Elchibey's efforts to enhance peace and security in the [words indistinct] region at a time when Azerbaijan is preoccupied with domestic and foreign problems has been welcomed by Turkey and the international community.

However, the Presidential Press Service regrets that various material on foreign policy, which may harm Azerbaijani interests, also have been recently published in Azerbaijan in addition to Turkey.

President Elchibey To Visit Egypt in Feb

*OW1401131993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223
GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the beginning of February, Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey will pay an official visit to Egypt, the president's press service informed INTERFAX. Elchibey will travel to Egypt on the invitation of the

Egyptian president. During his stay in that country, an agreement on trade and economic cooperation is expected to be signed.

UN Allocates \$2 Million in Humanitarian Aid

LD1301223293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1820 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Elman Kadirly for TASS]

[Text] Baku January 13 TASS—According to U.N. Main Commissariat for Refugee Affairs the number of refugees in Azerbaijan has amounted to 462,000, including 195,000 Azerbaijani, and 51,000 Turks who fled Uzbekistan, Michael Alford, a representative of the U.N. commissariat in Baku, told an AZERTAC correspondent on Wednesday.

He said that the U.N. had allocated 2 million U.S. dollars out of its budget for relief supplies to Azerbaijan.

By now a total of 60,000 blankets and other goods have been delivered to Baku by three planes from Turkey. Alford said that the size of the U.N. humanitarian aid may be increased if a such a need arises.

Georgia

Kitovani Denies Coup, Sees 'Dark Forces' at Work

LD1301222193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By correspondent K. Belov, including recording of remarks by Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, who has been in Moscow since 10 January, today denied in a "Vesti" interview yesterday's claim in the Georgian parliament that a military coup was being prepared in Tbilisi.

[Kitovani] No coups or military actions in Georgia have been planned. Certain dark forces want to bring parliament into collision with the armed forces and so totally destabilize Georgia at this difficult time.

[Belov] The Georgian minister declined to give an answer when asked about the aims of his visit to Moscow.

[Kitovani] Let my visit remain a secret.

[Belov] However, ITAR-TASS has learned that for the second time in a fortnight Kitovani has had a meeting in Moscow with his Russian counterpart, Pavel Grachev. The meetings are linked with preparations for the third round of Russian-Georgian negotiations on a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and on the quest for a solution of the Abkhazian conflict.

[Kitovani] Mr. Yeltsin and Shevardnadze must definitely meet and reach agreement on a cease-fire in Abkhazia.

Says Parliament Presents Threat

OW1301232593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1813 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tengiz Kitovani, the Georgian Defense Minister, declared about a possibility of a revenge in the republic.

Being on a private visit in Moscow, Kitovani was interviewed by an Interfax correspondent on Wednesday [13 January]; the Defense Minister expressed his point of view that the Georgian parliament presents this threat. According to Kitovani, the communist lobby, which occupies rather strong positions in the parliament, is preparing a conspiracy against the leaders of the national-liberation movement of Georgia. The Defense minister expressed regret that a number of the activists of the national liberation movement joined this lobby.

According to Kitovani, there are certain forces in the parliament which are trying "to create political clashes between the head of the state, Eduard Shevardnadze and the republic's armed forces." Kitovani believes that, in particular, "these forces try to come to power" with the help of such "instigation activity" of the leaders of the national democratic party of Georgia (the chairman of the party - Georgiy Chanturiya - Interfax).

Speaking about the conflict in Abkhazia, Kitovani expressed his opinion that the Abkhazian conflict should be solved with the participation of Russia. "Together with Russia we should determine Abkhazia's status within Georgia," he underlined. At the same time the Minister pointed out that "Russia will never wish to loose its influence in the Black Sea basin."

Meanwhile, Interfax has learned that on Tuesday in Moscow Tengiz Kitovani met with the Russian Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev. During their confidential meeting the leaders discussed the status of the Russian forces in Georgia, in particular, in Abkhazia. Grachev reconfirmed the Russian position according to which the issue on the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the Georgian- Abkhazian conflict zone should be solved at the inter-governmental level.

Ministry Denies Coup Rumors

LD1401102493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1004 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Jan—The Georgian Defense Ministry press center categorically denied statements by a number of politicians about preparations in the republic for a military coup. A release circulated today notes that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Georgia and their

leadership have given no cause for such insinuations and consider them to be an attempt to set parliament and government against the Armed Forces and to split them.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Relations With Russia

AU1301184993 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 5 Jan 93 p 7

[Interview with Parliament Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by Pal Tamas in Tbilisi on 2 January: "We Did Not Prepare for War"]

[Text] [Tamas] To what extent has the cooling down of Georgian-Russian relations and their turning into a conflict taken you by surprise? Are these changes the result of events that occurred in Georgia or rather the result of the Russian domestic political changes?

[Shevardnadze] I expected such a change. The conspicuous new elements in the restructuring of Georgian-Russian relations originate from the political processes in Russia and Russia's unstable and uncertain policy regarding the Caucasus. The aforementioned new elements are also clear consequences of the confrontation that has emerged in the Russian Parliament and the Russian leadership. Take, for example, the text, content, style, and direction of the agreement on the Abkhazian affair signed on 3 September and the subsequent steps made by the Russian players, and you will see quite different things. The text declares and emphasizes the territorial integrity of sovereign Georgia; at the same time, the Russian military units (and their generals) deployed here are constantly interfering in Georgia's internal affairs.

[Tamas] Is all this exclusively the result of the changes in Moscow's policy, or do the disintegration of the former Soviet Army, the independence of some units and their commanders, and the erosion of discipline and subordinate relations also have a decisive role in all this?

[Shevardnadze] I would not talk about a disintegration of the army; however, it is obvious that everything that occurs in society also affects the army. Nor do I want to believe that all the inadmissible steps that the Russian side has taken in Abkhazia originate from the Russian president. I would exclude this possibility, because the Russian president is one of the coauthors of our September agreement. However, further steps will also depend on others, not only on the president. These "others"—the commanders of Russian troops in Gudauta in Abkhazia, for example—are acting against the bases of our agreement.

[Tamas] Can we say, then, that there are two Russian foreign policies in the former Soviet regions where troops are deployed: one of the Foreign Ministry and one of the soldiers?

[Shevardnadze] I think we should rather speak about three different lines. First, there the president's line, and

as I have repeatedly said, I continue to believe in him. Obviously, the practical elements of the second line belong to the generals deployed and operating in the given region, including our region. The third line belongs to the Parliament. You also know what kind of parliament this is.

[Tamas] In the latest memorandum of the Georgian Parliament, you speak of "civilized relations in spite of everything" with the leaders of the Russian troops stationed beyond the Caucasus. Are there permanent forms of contact?

[Shevardnadze] First, I personally have continuous contacts with the commander and some other high-ranking officers of the troops stationed here. In addition, we began a sort of permanent series of meetings with all the relevant Russian troops; for the time being, Russian troops are in charge of border police and air defense activities in Georgia. The first such meeting has already taken place in the Georgian National Security and Defense Council. After a rather passionate meeting of two hours, it seems that we have found solutions to the tension points that aggravate our coexistence. Albeit not in a very calm atmosphere, we discussed the difficult issues related to the blockade around Russian bases, communications, and movement of troops, and we indeed solved many problems.

The contradiction of the Russian policy in the Caucasus lies in the fact that the command of the Russian troops deployed in Abkhazia—which is part of Georgia—was not given to a Russian military leadership in the region, a leadership that traditionally has some kind of contacts with us. We are told that the larger air force and the larger number of elite units deployed there since September are directly subordinated to Moscow. We think this is an anomaly; moreover, previously, the Soviet troops in Abkhazia also belonged to the Transcaucasus Military District controlled from Tbilisi. It seems that they no longer trust even their generals who are in permanent contact with us here.

[Tamas] In such a situation, it is rather difficult to speak about scenarios. However, could such scenarios be formulated? What could be the most disadvantageous and most advantageous versions?

[Shevardnadze] For the time being, we cannot deal much with a probable and favorable scenario. As long as the Russian policy remains unchanged, it is hardly worth dealing with success scenarios, because the Russian troops that arrived in this region as peacemaking forces have essentially moved to the other side. The tragedy is that they themselves have become participants in the conflict. For example, we have this debated helicopter issue that is interpreted differently by the Russians and by us: A Russian military helicopter crashed while accompanied by another helicopter and a Russian SU-25 combat aircraft. These aircraft were using the airspace of a sovereign state without the permission of the government in question.

[Tamas] When you turn to Moscow in such cases, what answers do you receive? Do they calm you down or they simply deny the whole thing?

[Shevardnadze] No essential answers are given, or the issues are simply declared nonexistent. They also use tougher tones: If the Georgian side does not fulfill something, or does not fulfill it "in the defense of the Russian population," the Russian troops also receive firing orders. It happens sometimes that I am asked to mediate in such cases. I have good relations with the Russian defense minister, and I also spoke with him personally about these things. He promised to place the units operating in Abkhazia under the command of the Transcaucasus Russian military headquarters in Tbilisi. However, nothing has happened so far....

[Tamas] If I understand things correctly, your position is further deteriorated by the fact that the Georgian armed forces are currently badly organized, or even disorganized.... What means of solving the confrontation could be used in this case?

[Shevardnadze] We did not prepare for war. I consider it extremely important for the people to understand that we had no intention whatsoever of engaging in a war when we decided to do something in Abkhazia. We planned a one-time action to defend and revive the broken railway in Abkhazia, a railway that had already been out of operation for a year, and a railway that represents our major contact with the areas north of the Caucasus, including Russia. Both we and the Armenians can hardly breathe without this railway. We did not think of anything else. If we had really thought of a war, we would have waited until we set up a regular Georgian Army. One also has to prepare for a civil war, correct?

[Tamas] You do not have fuel and a communication infrastructure; you also have a shortage of officers, and the real setting up of the army has just begun....

[Shevardnadze] We did not prepare for this, and thus we are not prepared. However, now that we have lost Gagra, Georgia has nothing left but to prepare for the worst, even for some kind of war. Russia is not fulfilling its peacemaking function. The Russians' ability to mediate peace is becoming increasingly limited, and it might even disappear altogether. The only solution for us then would be to agree with the Abkhazians to restore the situation that prevailed on 1 October 1992.

[Tamas] In other words, the other side would leave the occupied Abkhazian territory, which has no Abkhazian majority, including Gagra.

[Shevardnadze] If they were willing to do this, we could negotiate and agree on everything. We would not even need a mediator. Georgians and Abkhazians have also lived together, and we had no special problems.

[Tamas] However, if I understand this correctly, the Abkhazian leaders who were forced into Gudauta from Sukhumi do not really have sufficient power in such a

confrontation and, if the Russian troops really stay neutral, the Abkhazians would hardly have any special positions at the negotiations, given the numerical and infrastructural superiority of the Georgians.

[Shevardnadze] Unfortunately, this is not exactly so, particularly in the military area. They already have aircraft and serious artillery, too.... Of course, their only purchasing source must be in Russia. In that area, such equipment cannot be purchased from others. Their pilots are probably originating from the same place, too.

[Tamas] Negotiations on preparing a comprehensive agreement on the whole of Georgian-Russian relations are currently under way. You are now finishing the second round of negotiations, and a third round of negotiations will be held in January. Which are the most debated points?

[Shevardnadze] First: The Russians do not want to sign the economic cooperation agreement now, although we have already prepared the first text version of the agreement together with them. The Russians think that we need this agreement more than they do. They are only willing to sign it now if we make concessions in the Abkhazian issue. They do not seem to talk about territorial concessions, but they seem to talk about anything else....

Second: They wanted to include the Abkhazian issue as a subject of discussion at these Russian-Georgian interstate negotiations, too. However, this is Georgia's internal affair. This was an action of the Russian Foreign Ministry. We did not agree with this, and we succeeded in avoiding this issue.

Third, and the most important issue: In fact, they do not want to negotiate with us on what we will receive from the federal property situated on our territory: military bases, military factories, telecommunication infrastructure. We have built all this together over the last 70 years. I am only speaking here about the projects on Georgian territory. We do not demand any part of the common federal property that Russia has now declared as its own in the various parts of the world.... Except for the debts, we received nothing else. However, we would like to somehow get a share of the Black Sea Fleet, because there are major naval bases in Batumi and Poti. Something has still been left here, and they are mistaken in thinking that we do not see that most ships have already been directed to Russian ports.

We wanted to discuss these problems. So, there are enough contradictory issues. Of course, there is nothing surprising in all this. I remember how difficult it was when I was negotiating the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary; and everything was calm there then, while there is war here now.

[Tamas] In such a case, everyone would seek allies. What are Georgia's relations with the other two countries in the Transcaucasian Region: Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[Shevardnadze] We have no problems whatsoever with Armenia, but we simply do not have time to formulate our contacts and common interests in agreements. Nor do we need the Armenians to take a more active position on our side in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. After all, this is a Georgian internal affair. Besides, we understand their difficult situation, and we do not want further complications for them.

Our relations with Azerbaijan are also normal. We are now preparing an economic cooperation agreement. Our interests compensate each other. We need their railroads if we want to remain in contact with Russia and the other CIS member states. They need our Black Sea ports if they want to export anything to the West.

[Tamas] Your Moscow partners, the leaders who initiated perestroika, are not in power today. However, they perhaps continue to have some influence on the events through the media or some other means. What could they do to revive the frozen Georgian-Russian relations?

[Shevardnadze] They will provide the most help to Georgia if they save the Russian democracy. If Russia becomes a democratic country, we will have the closest relations with them. However, if Russia tries to return to some form of totalitarianism, this will be terrible for every country, including Georgia, the entire Caucasus, and even Hungary, all of Europe, and naturally to Russians, too. Therefore, if my friends there can do something, they should do everything in their power to save the Russian democracy.

Deputy Prime Minister Satisfied With Moscow Visit

OW1101142393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Roman Gotsiridze expressed satisfaction with his recent negotiations with Russian government figures in Moscow.

He said on Sunday in an interview in Tbilisi that cooperation between Georgia and Russia is further developing. Thus, in the course of his Moscow meeting, agreements were signed providing for a single system for transactions between Georgian and Russian enterprises.

He also reached an agreement with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin to continue work on a trade and economic treaty which would solve customs and mutual supplies problems between the two countries.

In a few days' time, Gotsiridze said, a group of Georgian experts will go to Moscow to decide on the volume of technological credit and cash to be given to Georgia. Georgia will receive approximately 15 billion rubles to pay the wages for December 1992 and a credit of some 40 billion rubles for the first quarter of 1993.

Authorities Demand Russian Army Leave Tbilisi Facility

OW1301153993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1510 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian authorities demanded that the staff of the 19th anti-aircraft army leave their Tbilisi premises before January 15, the press center of the Russian army group in Trans-Caucasus informed INTERFAX.

This ultimatum took the Russian servicemen completely by surprise, because in accordance with the order of the air defense commander-in-chief, the 19th army was to be disbanded in the spring of 1993.

On Wednesday, a group of Georgian guards detained a Russian armored personnel carrier in Tbilisi. The commander of the group asserts that the armored personnel carrier was intended for sale to Armenia, the Georgian Defense Ministry's press center reports.

Talks With Russia Imperilled by Hostage Taking

PM1301105593 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 3

[Captain Viktor Volskiy report: "Russian Military Unit Seized by Force in Georgia. Georgians Holding 40 Russian Servicemen Hostage"]

[Text] It has already been reported that a Russian Armed Forces unit stationed in the population center of Lagodekhi was blockaded during an attempt to remove weapons and munitions from the republic. After the convoy returned to its permanent base, the Russian command decided to mine weapons and ammunition dumps.

On the morning of 10 January Colonel Gennadiy Dolgachev, head of the press center of the group of Russian forces in the Transcaucasus, told KRSNAYA ZVEZDA's stringer that the group's leaders had decided to defuse the mines at the dumps and transfer the weapons and munitions to the Georgians. Somewhat later it was established that the unit had come under attack and had been seized by Georgian troops. This was announced by Major General Viktor Ivanenkov, chief of the group's intelligence directorate. He also said that up to 100 members of the Georgian Defense Ministry security service and a Georgian border battalion supported by five armored transports had taken part in the attack. Some 40 Russian officers, warrant officers, senior enlisted personnel, and soldiers were being held in a house in Lagodekhi.

"The Russian unit's weapons and munitions were stolen, despite assurances from Tengiz Kitovani that they could be removed to Russia without let or hindrance," Viktor Ivanenkov said. The general went on to say that Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani was currently seeking channels to organize cooperation in Moscow

with the Russian military department. But, in Viktor Ivanenkov's opinion, following the seizure of the Russian unit, it is "pointless to talk about such a thing..."

It is also premature to talk about the release of the hostages. Although, as Maj. Gen. V. Ivanenkov reported, the Georgians have removed the guards from outside the house where the hostages were held, they have not been taken to Tbilisi and the command of the group of forces is concerned about what has happened to them.

Hostages Released

OW1201124693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1207 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Forty-five Russian servicemen, taken hostage on January 10 by Georgian forces in the regional center of Lagodekhi, have been released and taken to Tbilisi, Major-General Viktor Ivanenkov, head of the intelligence group of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus, told INTERFAX.

On January 10, Georgian special units occupied the Russian garrison in Lagodekhi to prevent weapons from being taken out.

Sources in the Russian Defense Ministry assert that the weapons and ammunition were stolen, despite the earlier agreement to hand them over to the Georgian army.

Ivanenkov said that the Georgian forces are still on the territory of this garrison. Currently, the weapons and equipment are being handed over to them.

Parliament Debates Abkhazia Military Situation

LD1301175393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 13 January—Georgia's Parliament started debating the military and political situation in Abkhazia this afternoon. The sitting is being held behind closed doors.

A report on the situation in Abkhazia is being delivered by Georgian Army Brigade General Avtandil Tskitishvili, who supervised military operations in Abkhazia for some time and took part in talks on a settlement of the conflict in the autonomous republic.

Still No End in Sight for Abkhazia Dispute

PM1201101793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Jan 93 p 1

[Alan Kasayev report under the "Trouble Spots" rubric: "Mandarins Harvested, and War Goes On"]

[Text] The political stances of Georgia and Abkhazia regarding the dispute between them finally took shape in

the new year. It all started with the recent radio broadcast by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who stated that military victory is the shortest route to peace. But the first diplomatic move in the new year was the meeting in Moscow between Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani and his Russian counterpart, Pavel Grachev. Officially, the talks were to complete the preparation of the military section of the bilateral treaty, but they actually took the form of attempts by the Georgian side to obtain fresh supplies of weapons and disputes about the future of Russian servicemen. Moreover, there has been an intensification of feelings in Georgia in favor of rejecting cooperation with Russia and of reorientation toward NATO countries. This was plainly stated at a parliamentary session by Foreign Minister Chikvaдзе.

However, to date reality has not confirmed any desire on NATO's part to get involved in Georgia's problems, and George Bush's traditional support for Shevardnadze has considerably waned as his departure from presidential office approaches. As far as Bill Clinton is concerned, his negative attitude to the personality of the current Georgian leader is known. The change in the world community's attitude to the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia is shown by the UN resolution, where the conflict is not described as "the internal" affair of Georgia and is equated with the Yugoslav conflict.

For his part, Sergey Bagapsh, first deputy chairman of the Abkhazia Council of Ministers, has stated that all Georgia's attempts to achieve a military victory are doomed to fail. At the same time, prolonging the war is, in his opinion, the current leadership of Georgia's only chance to stay in power.

There has been an escalation of hostilities in recent days. The Abkhazian side does not disguise its intention to get back its capital, Sukhumi, which is right now almost completely blockaded by Abkhazian military formations. At the same time rocket attacks and artillery shelling by both sides continue. Dozens of inhabitants have been wounded or killed as a result of the shelling and bombing of population centers. The Georgian Army is using "Grad" and "Buran" rocket systems.

As far as the conflict's immediate prospects are concerned, the exhaustion of the military and economic potential of its participants has to be borne in mind. News agencies have reported that a bumper harvest of mandarins has been picked in Abkhazia and Western Georgia. But one can scarcely fight long on the money earned from their sale... particularly as there is an acute problem in the supply of prime necessities. The humanitarian aid delivered to besieged Tkvarcheli is patently inadequate and, moreover, according to eyewitness accounts, mechanisms for its fair distribution have not been adequately worked out. As far as the front-line rayons of western Georgia are concerned, their inhabitants are suffering from hunger and cold. And there is still no end in sight to this war, which has visited misfortune on hundreds of families.

Abkhaz Troops Control Territory

LD1401102793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Abkhaz Council of Ministers has adopted a statement which says that the legitimate authorities in Abkhazia, as represented by the government of the autonomous republic, are in control of most of its territory.

The Council of Ministers has called on the world community to condemn the illegal actions by separatists and to support the leadership of Georgia in its desire to preserve the territorial integrity of the republic. Some military experts think that the number of people killed during the Georgian and Abkhazian military operations has reached 2,000.

According to the Sukhumi headquarters of the Georgian military leadership, the Abkhaz side deliberately conceals its real losses for propaganda purposes. According to the Abkhaz Health Ministry data, 60 civilians lost their lives in Sukhumi over the past 40 days—during the period between 1 December, 1992, and 9 January, 1993—as a result of artillery shelling by the Abkhaz forces, among them 15 Russians and two Abkhazians, as well as Georgians, Armenians, Greeks, and Ukrainians.

Fighting Moves to Ochamchira District

LD1401115093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi January 14 TASS—It was relatively quiet at the Abkhazian-Georgian frontline along the Gumista river in the past 24 hours and fighting moved to Ochamchira district.

Intensive shootings were registered late on Wednesday near the village of Pokvesh there.

Abkhazian guerrillas and Georgian troops also clashed in mountainous settlements of the district, according to the Georgian Military Command in Sukhumi which gave no casualty reports.

Abkhazian Legislators Make War Crime Accusations

OW1301124793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1207 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Abkhazian Parliament's Human Rights and Ethnic Relations Commission has accused the Georgian Army of gross violations of agreements on the exchange of war prisoners and brutality towards the Abkhazian population.

In a statement published on Tuesday, the commission says the Georgians tortured 12 Abkhazian soldiers taken

prisoner on January 10. The commission says that the soldiers, several of whom were ethnic Russians, were killed, and then their disfigured bodies were handed over to Abkhazian officials.

The commission urges the international organizations monitoring the regulations on the treatment of war prisoners to qualify this as a war crime.

Abkhaz Envoy Stresses Wish for Political Settlement

PM1301095593 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jan 93 p 2

[Sergey Knyazkov report in the "From Our News Bureau" column: "Special Envoy of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia Has Visited Vladikavkaz. Meanwhile Servicemen Are Exchanged in Sukhumi"]

[Text] Special envoy Konstantin Ozgan has informed the leadership of North Ossetia of the immutability of Abkhazia's course of achieving a political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, provided the Georgian State Council withdraws its troops.

Ozgan then went to Grozny, where he met with the president of Chechnya. The special envoy next plans to visit the leaders of all the republics, krais, and oblasts of the North Caucasus.

Meanwhile in Sukhumi an exchange of Georgian and Abkhazian POWs took place at the Russian airborne battalion base. According to an ITAR-TASS report citing the Georgian Military Command HQ press center in Sukhumi, the Abkhazian side handed over eight POWs to the Georgians while the Georgian side handed over to the Abkhazians two POWs plus the bodies of five fighters who had died a few days earlier during attacks by Abkhazian troops along the Gumista River.

Abkhazia, Dniester To Sign Cooperation Treaty

OW1101201993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1435 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the end of the week, Abkhazia and Trans-Dniestria (the self-proclaimed republic in Moldova), will sign the treaty on cooperation and mutual assistance. According to well-informed sources, a delegation led by chairman of the Abkhazian parliament, Vladislav Ardzinba, will fly to Tiraspol.

The agreement on the conclusion of such a treaty was reached at the end of December during Moscow talks between the chairmen of the Trans-Dniestrian and Abkhazian parliaments.

According to the same sources, Abkhazia is planning to conclude a treaty on cooperation and mutual assistance with the Gagauz Republic, another self-proclaimed state entity on Moldovan territory.

Defense Council Decides To Set Up Border Troops

LD1401112993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] A meeting of the Republic of Georgia Defense Council has decided to set up republican border troops. The Council has endorsed the structure of the border troops, where they will be stationed, and the procedure for recruitment. It is thought that the republican border troops will have up to 10,000 servicemen. Recruitment will be based on the contract system and on youth call-up for a fixed period.

South Ossetian Delegation on Moves Toward Unified State

LD1201152293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1429 GMT 12 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 12 TASS—A South Ossetian delegation, which has attended a session of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, have handed the parliamentarians in an appeal offering to create a group of North and South Ossetian law-makers "for the elaboration of a joint program of economic and political actions."

In their opinion, the program should then be approved by supreme power bodies of the two republics.

The appeal stressed the need for a single way of development of the Ossetian nation. It says "the problem of single Ossetia and its participation in any federative or confederative relations in any state structure can be a subject of tripartite Ossetian-Russian-Georgian negotiations with an elaborated system of guarantees and guarantors of security."

Estonia**Delegation To Push for Russian Withdrawal Date***OW1201202393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2007
GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the next round of talks with Russia which will begin in Moscow on January 14, the Estonian delegation is going to devote special attention to determining the final date of the Russian troops withdrawal from the republic.

"We have already advised the Russian delegation of our position," head of the Estonian Government delegation at the talks with Russia, Juri Luik, told journalists at a press conference in Tallinn this Tuesday [12 January].

Estonia is insisting that Russia complete its troops pullout by the end of 1993, while Russia says the troops would be withdrawn by the end of 1994.

In the words of the Estonian minister, Estonia will not actively participate in the discussions of any other issue of secondary importance unless this primary problem has been resolved.

At the eight rounds of talks with Russia, the parties are going to address the issues related to the external debt of the former Soviet Union, as well as the problems of extradition of the Russian citizens who have come to Estonia illegally. Mr Luik expressed hope that these problems would be resolved.

In the meantime, the head of the Estonian delegation does not count on any significant progress in settling the countries' border problem.

The Estonian delegation is leaving for Moscow on Tuesday night. The three working groups (for addressing military, humanitarian and economic issues) will hold their meetings with their Russian counterparts on Wednesday, their plenary session opening in Nakhbino near Moscow on Thursday.

Russian Talks to Focus on Withdrawal of Troops*LD1301101193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn January 13 TASS—The Estonian side will focus its attention on the time frame of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonian territory at the Russian-Estonian talks, Minister Juri Luik, head of the Estonian delegation, said before leaving for Moscow.

According to Juri Luik, the Estonian delegation also intends to raise the question about "Russian citizens illegally staying in Estonia" at the regular round of Russian-Estonian talks, which begin today in Nakhbino, Moscow region.

Now a residence permit and a residence registration certificate are the only legal ground enabling non-citizens to stay in Estonia. However, residence registration may soon be cancelled, after which about one third of Estonian's permanent residents, mostly those who are not ethnic Estonians, will face the need to appeal to the immigration service, asking for a residence permit.

Agreements on Settlements Signed With Ukraine*WS1201130193 Tallinn BNS in English 2245 GMT 11
Jan 93*

[Text] Tallinn, 11 January 1993 (BNS)—The Bank of Estonia signed a new agreement on settlements with the Ukraine, the Estonian central bank's deputy governor Bo Kragh told BNS after arrival from Kiev on Monday [11 January].

The first agreement was signed after the monetary reform in Estonia in June 1992, but was cancelled by Estonia after the Ukraine's transition to a national currency—the karbovanets.

Kragh said the Ukraine had rejected Estonia's proposal to start exchanging the karbovanets for freely convertible currencies. The convertibility of the Estonian kroon is guaranteed by law while the Ukraine's transitional money possesses no such guarantees.

Also the Lithuanian central bank rejected Estonia's proposal to freely exchange its transitional currency—the talonas.

"It is difficult to say which of the currencies is weaker, the Ukrainian karbovanets, Lithuania's talonas or the Russian rouble," Kragh said. "There's a real competition going on between them for the title of the most-falling currency," he added.

Kragh said all the three countries had started emission of uncovered cash which is quickly bringing down the exchange rate of their currencies to the dollar. The Bank of Estonia deputy governor added that the transitional currency in Latvia—Latvia's rouble—had retained stability thanks to the country's refraining from excessive emission.

Foreign Ministry Says UN Membership Fees Too High*OW1301213193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1717
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The membership fees to the UN and other UN-related international organizations have turned out to be too burdensome for Estonia, Tonis Nirk, employee of the foreign economic policy at the Estonian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs], told BALTFAX correspondent.

When determining the size of the membership fees of the states which formerly comprised the Soviet Union, the

UN relied on the size of the Soviet per capita GNP in the years 1980-1989, relying on the then official rate of exchange, according to which \$1 sold for 58 kopeks. As a result, Estonia's annual fees amounted to over a million US dollars.

At present, the Estonian GNP decreased by 35-45% against the level of 1989, while a US dollar in Moscow sells for 430 rubles. Estonian reasons that it would have been more appropriate to proceed from the commercial ruble-to-dollar exchange rate which comprised 1 ruble 80 kopeks per \$1.

The Estonian representative in the UN, Ernst Jaakson, tried in vain to bargain the UN decision in regards to the size of its fees.

In determining the sizes of membership fees, the UN was taking into account the results of the analysis of the Estonian economy carried out by the International Monetary Fund. "Because we failed to present to the MFA and the World Bank a true picture of the state of the Estonian economy, these organizations have developed overly optimistic expectations," scientific director of the Institute of Economy at the Estonian Academy of Science, Teet Rajasalu, writes in one of his recent works.

In the words of Tonis Nirk, Estonia still hopes to pay part of its membership fee to the UN.

CSCE High Commissioner Wants Objective Information

OW1201211393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2007 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At his Tuesday [12 January] meeting with the Estonian President Lennart Meri, the CSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities Issues, Max van der Stoel, was hopeful that he would obtain objective information on the situation with national minorities in Estonia.

The Estonian presidential press service informs that during the meeting Lennart Meri told his guest about the economic situation in the republic, as related to this issue. In touching on the situation with national minorities in Estonia, Mr Meri drew the High Commissioner's attention to the plight of the Finno-Ugric peoples in Russia.

The Estonian Foreign Minister, Trivimi Velliste, advised Max van der Stoel of some of the aspects of the Russian-Estonian talks and of the problems associated with the pullout of the Russian troops from the territory of the republic.

The Estonian MFA [ministry of foreign affairs] press service notes that the CSCE High Commissioner was also interested in the issues of citizenship, as well as in

the future prospects for the migrants who settled in Estonia in the years of the Soviet occupation of the republic.

The Estonian minister gave the CSCE envoy a detailed account "of the situation in the republic regarding demobilized officers of the Soviet Army and the KGB, as well as of the non-citizens' participation in the elections to local power bodies," the MFA press service reports.

Meri, Velliste Receive CSCE Ethnic Minority Official

WS1301131493 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 0901 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tallinn, January 12—Estonia's president, Lennart Meri, on Tuesday [12 January] received a CSCE delegation led by High Commissioner for Ethnic Minorities, Max van der Stoel.

While discussing the problems of Russian-speaking residents in Estonia, Meri stressed it was necessary to differentiate between those who want to become the country's citizens and those who just happened to come here as a result of the former Soviet Union's Russification policy.

"Every non-citizen has to determine his or her future citizenship individually," Meri said.

The problem on Finno-Ugric minorities living in Russia was also dealt upon.

Max van der Stoel also met Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste.

Velliste informed the CSCE delegation about Estonian-Russian negotiations and problems concerning Russian army officers, former KGB employees and people who worked in the former Soviet military industry.

Max van der Stoel expressed special interest in Estonia's Citizenship law, the status of immigrants who came to the country during the Soviet occupation and their adaptation to Estonia's society.

Japanese Demand Riigikogu Ratification of Loan

WS1201131393 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0929 GMT 12 Jan 93

[From 12 January ARIPAEV, p 3]

[Text] 12 January 1993—Japanese Export-Import Bank did not agree to the suggestion of Estonia's government to sign the 20-million-dollar loan without the Riigikogu ratification. The Foreign Ministry announced that by turning down the loan in the Riigikogu, Estonia is about to face serious international complications. Three different governments have been holding negotiations with Japan to get the loan, whilst the rejection in Riigikogu made Japan doubt in the consistency of Estonian politics.

The Riigikogu drew attention also in Europe where it stopped the aid offer and negotiations held on irrecoverable aid. New credits will not be offered before the Riigikogu has come to a decision as to the present loans.

Government Said Seeking Weapons From Israel

WS1201130093 Tallinn BNS in English 1249 GMT 11 Jan 93

["Estonian Army To Be Armed With Submachine Guns 'Uzi'"—BNS headline]

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 11, BNS—Mentioning well informed sources, the Tallinn radio station "KUKU" reported that Estonia is negotiating with Israel concerning the procurement of a large party of weapons. According to the radiostation, the chairman of the Tallinn bank "Revaliya" and an official trade representative of Estonia to Israel, Leonid Apanaski, is the mediator in this bargain.

The previous Thursday Mart Laar, the Estonian Prime Minister, received an Israeli delegation of businessmen who, as the governmental press service reported, were interested in investments in the former USSR military factories situated in Estonia. The radiostation has not informed whether there is connection between this visit and the negotiations about the procurement of the weapons.

Last year Estonia procured a large party of submachine guns from Romania however it appeared that they lack quality. Estonia also received weapons from Russia, other CIS and Eastern European countries via different channels.

Italy To Give Nation \$10-Million Grant

OW1201211593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2007 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Prime Minister, Mart Laar, told journalists at a press conference in Tallinn on Tuesday [12 January] that the Italian government has made a decision to provide a \$10-million grant to Estonia.

In his words, this money will be invested into the development of the republic's agriculture, in particular, for purchasing fodder grain. The money accrued as a result of sales of this grain to the farmers will go into a special revolving fund set to provide credits and loans for Estonian-Italian economic projects.

Minister Cites Reasons for Extending Territorial Waters

LD1201190393 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1530 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Estonian Government promises to do everything possible to ensure that the expansion of Estonian

territorial waters of Estonia will not cause problems for neighboring countries or international navigation in the Gulf of Finland. Defense Minister Hain Rebas, who is visiting Finland, justifies the extension of territorial waters to 12 nautical miles with economic and defense reasons.

[Unidentified reporter] There has been a domestic dispute in Estonia lately about extending the limit of territorial waters to 12 nautical miles in the Gulf of Finland. The highest leadership of the country has supported the limit of four nautical miles, but the government has recommended to the parliament that the limit should be 12 nautical miles, that is, 22 km. The parliament's final decision is expected in the near future.

The extension of Estonian territorial waters to the maximum allowed by international law has caused at least slight annoyance in the Finnish Government because in practice international navigation would have to proceed very close to the coast of Finland in the most narrow points of the Gulf of Finland. The limit of Finland's territorial waters is four nautical miles. The Finnish authorities hope that Estonia's final law will be flexible and allow regional exceptions in the line of the border.

Estonian Defense Minister Hain Rebas, who is visiting Finland, is calming the worries of the Finns.

[Begin Rebas recording, in Swedish] We are going to have 12 nautical miles but it is going to be drawn back to 8-9 nautical miles, and we will leave a very wide (?channel) in the middle of the Gulf of Finland. [end recording]

[Reporter] Rebas said that in principle the limit of territorial waters will be taken to 12 nautical miles but it can go several miles nearer to the Estonian coast and then there will be a wide enough route for sea traffic in the middle of the Gulf of Finland. He said that a state that has regained its independence has no reason to give away its sea areas which normally belong to it. However, Rebas softened his view, saying: We will do our best to ensure that the new territorial water limit will not cause problems to countries in our neighborhood or to international international.

The Estonian defense minister believes that the proposal of the government will be passed by the parliament because the split opposition has not been able to present a constructive alternative. The extension of the limit of territorial waters is justified by Rebas with economic and defense reasons. Estonia wants to secure the fishing waters and possible raw material from seabed for its own use. At the same time the expanded sea area gives more time to prepare for the movements of a foreign power in the Gulf of Finland, if needed, Defense Minister Rebas said. He had talks today at the Finnish Foreign Ministry and defense forces on increasing cooperation between Estonia and Finland.

Latvia

Russian Militiamen Demand Release of Officer

OW1201164593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1630 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 133 officers of the Russian Interior Ministry have signed an appeal to the Russian government, people's deputies, as well as to officers of the Latvian police, courts of justice, and the Attorney's General Office, demanding that they take measures for immediate release from custody of ex-deputy of Riga OMON [special purpose militia detachment], Sergey Parfenov.

Their appeal reads, "We regard the investigation into Mr Parfenov's case which has been going on for over a year, his stay in custody, the confinement of the Russian officer into an iron cage during the trials, as well as his unsubstantiated sentence as a dirty political game, rather than a criminal case proceedings, aimed at collecting cheap dividends and setting apart the Russian and the Latvian peoples".

The Russian militiamen are appealing to all the police officers throughout the world and all the international police organizations to condemn "the unlawful and unsubstantiated sentence to the Russian militia officer".

Defense Ministry Statement on Russian Presence

LD1201143393 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] On 11 January the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Latvia issued a statement on the numerical strength of the Russian Army contingent deployed in Latvia. According to the statement, at present 681 troop units of the Russian Army are stationed in Latvia on more than 70,000 hectares of state territory. There are around 27,000 Russian Army personnel in Latvia, among them around 11,000 officers and ensigns and 16,000 soldiers. At the disposal of the Russian troops there are at present 29 tanks, 73 armored vehicles, 12 (Silka) anti-aircraft guns, 36 self-propelled howitzers of various calibers, and more than 2,500 motor vehicles of various types and denominations, and also 30 attack bombers, 20 tactical bombers, 11 transport aircraft of various types, and 11 helicopters, 12 submarines, 29 warships of various types, and around 100 auxiliary ships.

The statement says that the Russian security service and the army intelligence and counterintelligence services are continuing their activity unhampered. This is testified by the presence of more than 20 intelligence formations on the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

During the second half of last year the Russian army vacated 90 facilities occupied by the military. Thirty-three army units have left Latvian territory. Apart from that 50 units were disbanded on the spot and 15 troop

units have been illegally sold to commercial organizations. The Ministry of Defense regards that the Russian army is thus gradually leaving the territory of the Republic of Latvia, but it regularly violates the conditions of the communique on the withdrawal of the troops adopted on 1 February 1992 at the talks between Latvia and Russia.

On 1 January 1993 the No.25 Motorized Rifle Brigade was formed illegally. As the statement says, the forming of such a brigade and its deployment in the direct vicinity of Riga, at Adazi and Dobeles, and also a big concentration of troops in Riga, in Riga rayon, in Liepaja and Daugavpils are a continuous threat to the independence of the Republic of Latvia and it destabilizes the political situation.

Defense Ministry Survey on Russian Military Strength

WS1301130093 Tallinn BNS in English 1343 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, Jan 12, BNS—The Latvian Defence Ministry has released a survey reflecting numerical strength of the Russian military stationed on the Latvian territory, their equipment and instances of misdoings.

According to the report, presently 681 army units occupying 70,000 hectares and including 27,000 thousand people are located in Latvia. The troops consist of 11,000 officers and 16,000 rank-and-file soldiers.

The report says that Russia's reconnaissance and intelligence services are freely operating on the Latvian territory. Statistics confirm existence of more than 20 such formations in Latvia.

During the second half of the last year Russian military have quitted 90 installations; 33 army units have returned to Russia. Besides, 50 units have been disbanded on the spot and 15 units unlawfully sold out to commercial structures.

Consequently, the Defense Ministry holds that although the army is gradually leaving the republic, it is frequently violating withdrawal regulations in the joint Latvian-Russian communique of February 1, 1992.

Regarding these facts, the document repeats data on illegalities, carried out by the Russian military on the Latvian territory, as reflected in the information bulletin of January 8, 1993.

The latest data concern unlawful creation of an infantry brigade on January 1, 1993.

The report assesses development of the brigade in direct vicinity of the capital, Riga, and the high military concentration near Riga, to be a permanent threat to the Latvian independence.

Talks With Russians on Boldejara Port 'Positive'*LD1301213493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1400 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The visit of a delegation from the Russian Navy and talks with the leaders of the Latvian Navy have produced positive results. The leadership of the Latvian Navy has received an invitation from (Valeriy Berezusk), commander of the Boldejara naval port, to visit the port to start talks on gradually taking it over. Captain Gaidis Zeibots, commander of the Latvian Navy, went to the port today to talk about taking over two sites. Possibly in the near future the Boldejara Yacht Club and sports complex will pass into the hands of the Latvian Navy. A visit is planned next week to the port by Minister of State Janis Dinevics.

Agreement Signed on Receiving EC Credits*LD1101214793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1830 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] Uldis Osis, first deputy minister of finance of Latvia, has returned from Brussels. He has signed an agreement with EC countries on granting a credit of 80 million European Currency Units [ECU] to Latvia. At the Ministry of Finance, a press conference was held today at which Osis informed journalists about this deal. He noted that according to the conclusions by experts of world influential financial organizations [words indistinct] (?200) million U.S. dollars (?is necessary). Half of this amount, calculated in ECU's—80 million—will be lent by EC countries.

In granting this loan, guarantees were demanded from Latvia, similarly to what was done by the IMF. The total amount of credits received in Latvia at present, and also those not yet received but envisaged according to agreements, has already reached 195 million dollars.

Credit for the development of agriculture and industry has been provided by Canada, Finland, the United States, the IMF, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank. Money has been obtained from Germany, however, for the reconstruction of the National Opera.

Minister of Industry Retains Post in Parliament Vote*OW1301195993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As a result of the parliamentary voting on Wednesday [13 January], the Latvian minister of industry and energetics, Aivars Millers, has retained his post. 50 deputies out of the quorum of 119 voted for his resignation, with 36 votes against and 27 abstentions.

In the opinion of most deputies, Mr Millers' resignation would not facilitate the solution of any specific economic

problems. Some of the deputies reason that the agricultural faction, that forwarded the demand for his resignation, is merely trying to build its own political capital on the eve of the elections to the Latvian Sejms.

In the meantime, 20 deputies from the "Ravnopraviye" faction proposed to pass the vote of no confidence to the republic's state minister Janis Dinevics. The appeal which the faction forwarded to the Presidium of the Supreme Council charges the state minister of his not providing for the observance of the law "On Register of Latvian Residents".

Gorbunovs Attends Conference on Role of Militia*WS1201130893 Riga LETA in English 0503 GMT 11
Jan 93*

[Text] Riga, January 11 (LETA)—"Militia now is a sufficiently organized force which works controllably and purposefully for the benefit of the Latvian state," Anatolijs Gorbunovs, the chairman of the Supreme Council, pledged on Saturday [9 January] at a conference "Fatherland, Militiaman, Time", organized by the staff of the Latvian militia.

Gits Kristovskis, the head of the militia staff, submitted a review on work done during the last year. He pointed out that in the society there are certain worries that Latvia seems to be turning into a militant state, an issue of legal bases of militia activities also remains open, as well as a question of its role in the defence system of his country. However, Anatolijs Gorbunovs stressed that militia stemmed from the people and its aim was to serve the people. In the nearest future militia is to set up motorized units of marksmen, equipped with proper weapons and communication means.

A question whether militia is to carry out functions of police kept cropping up during the conference. A possible cooperation with local authorities was also among the issues discussed during the meeting. After the conference has finished its work militiamen went in a torchlight procession to the liberty monument.

Legislature Accepts Amendments to Business Law*WS1301130693 Tallinn BNS in English 1910 GMT 12
Jan 93*

[Text] Riga, Jan 12, BNS—Today the Latvian parliament accepted alterations and amendments to the law on private business, introduced by the parliamentary economy commission.

According to delegate Kazimirs Spogis, one of the authors of the document, first the system of official licenses will be established in Latvia for the purchase of non-ferrous metals and export of all the metals. The import and sale of any metals in Latvia meets no restrictions.

Spogis said to BNS that the Latvian Government has already adopted a decision on the order of licensing.

Some deputies doubted the actual execution of the law, but Spogis predicted that the control over the metal trade will be extremely severe, and licenses will be granted for some businesses only.

Adopting the alterations, the parliament hopes to also settle some essential culture problems, as the law envisions the Latvian Culture Ministry to grant special licenses for the distribution and exhibition of literature and art pieces. Thus, the law eliminates the chance for several companies to use others' property.

Ratifies Labor Conventions

WS1301130893 Tallinn BNS in English 1910 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, Jan 12, BNS—Today the Latvian parliament ratified a number of conventions from the International Labor Organization, and the May 13, 1958, Convention on sailors' national identity cards. The parliament also accepted the March 6, 1948, Convention on International Sailing Organization.

The session also elected people's judges of four Latvian towns.

Lithuania

Lubys' Meeting With Russians Being Prepared

OW1201185393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitry Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talks are underway concerning the organization of a meeting between Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys and the Russian leaders. Bronislovas Lubys announced this news on Monday [11 January] to a conference of the Association of Lithuanian Industrialists.

The prime minister said that such talks may take place at the end of January in the Kaliningrad Region. The agenda of the talks may include prices on energy and fuel, the conclusion of an agreement on free trade and other aspects of bilateral economic relations.

The participants in the conference emphasized the importance of concluding inter-state and trade agreements with the former Union republics. In their opinion, without such agreements, it is impossible to ensure rhythmical and normal performance of industrial enterprises.

Lubys Holds Talks With U.S. Envoy

WS1201130293 Tallin BNS in English 1249 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 11, BNS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys told the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, Darryl Johnson, that he hoped to meet with Russian leaders in January in order to continue negotiations with them on economic cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking about Lithuania's relations with Western states, Lubys said Lithuania "is open for foreign capital investments" and will be providing favorable conditions for them.

As for Lithuania's relations with the International Monetary Fund, Lubys said a commission had been formed charged with negotiating with the IMF amendments to the economic policy memorandum approved by the Lithuanian government. One should be realistic, and, though irreversible, transition to market economics should for a while be government-regulated, Lubys said.

Butkevicius Receives U.S. Military Attache

WS1301130293 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1450 GMT 12 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 162]

[Text] 12 January 1993—On January 11 the Minister of the National Defence Audrius Butkevicius received the U.S. Military Attache to Lithuania Colonel Lawrence H. Shaevitz. Other Lithuanian high military officials also took part at the accreditation ceremony.

Colonel Shaevitz, 47, earlier worked at the U.S. military forces in Great Britain and was the head of the U.S. military base in Alaska.

Lawrence H. Shaevitz is the 12th foreign military representative to Lithuania. The first military attache accredited to Lithuania was a representative of the Swedish military forces, Colonel Kaj Wahlberg.

Events Mark Anniversary of 13 Jan Incidents

Lubys Speaks on Tragedy

OW1201210993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2006 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Independence is not the final end, but it is one of the entities indispensable for insuring good fortune to all the people," Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys said at the Tuesday [12 January] mourning session dedicated to the second anniversary of the tragic events in Vilnius on January 13, 1991. He reminded that the "spirit of unity and consolidation of January 13", which helped withstand the armed force, is needed now

for overcoming the current economic and other problems the republic has come to grips with.

At 8 p.m. local time, fires were ignited in Vilnius at the sites where the defenders of Lithuania's freedom and independence had to spill their blood and where the main events of that tragic night were taking place—in front of the parliament building, near the radio and TV centers, at the foot of Vilnius TV tower, and the former KGB building.

The functions dedicated to the events of that tragic night are expected to continue throughout the night. In the morning, the Seimas will open its special session. A memorial, dedicated to the freedom fighters, will be inaugurated in front of the parliament building. During the day, the residents of Vilnius will come to a meeting. They will lay wreaths and flowers to the tombs of the Lithuanian freedom fighters who lost their lives on that night.

During the clashes of the Lithuanian demonstrators with the Soviet Army troops, 13 people were killed and over a hundred wounded.

Parliament Commemorates Victims

OW1301131493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1115 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday morning [13 January] the Lithuanian parliament observed a minute of silence for the victims of the tragic events in Vilnius in January 1991, thus beginning the Day for the Defenders of Freedom. The ceremony was attended by members of the government, relatives of the victims, church notables, diplomatic representatives and other guests.

"In January 1991 Lithuania was confronted with crude force and brazen armed aggression against civilians," Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas said. "An awful crime was committed during those days. The organizers of the bloodshed, during which 14 citizens were killed and more than 700 were wounded, must be tried," he went on to say.

In conclusion, Brazauskas said that January 13 united Lithuanians. He also urged the population to stay united in tackling complicated economic and social problems.

A large group of Lithuanian citizens were presented with state awards in recognition of their contribution to the defense of Lithuania's freedom and independence. A monument in front of the parliament building was sanctified.

Communist Party Said Responsible

OW1201202293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2006 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The responsibility of the then leaders of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party, Mikolas Burokiavicius and Algimantas Naudziunas, for the tragic events in Vilnius on the night of January 13, 1991, has been proven. This conclusion was made public by the republic's Chief Attorney of the Investigation Department of the Attorney's General Office of the Lithuanian Republic, Juozas Gaudutis, in his interview over the Lithuanian Radio on Tuesday [12 January].

Mr Gaudutis said the Lithuanian Attorney's General Office received a number of documents from the Russian Attorney's General Office, former KGB of the USSR and some other sources indicating that the tragic events were premeditated and planned well in advance. In his words, that tragic night the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party held a meeting of the party activists who were waiting for the news of the overthrow of power in the republic. In the meantime, the Central Committee was getting progress reports of the attack at the Lithuanian Radio and TV centers.

The Chief Attorney emphasized that the persons responsible for these tragic developments will have to stand trial "not for the policy they were pursuing, but for the bloodshed they provoked".

Nation's Leaders 'Induced' Events

OW1301212693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1716 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The tragic events of January 13, 1991, in Vilnius were induced by the political maneuvering of the then Lithuanian parliament members who "knew perfectly well what they were doing". Lithuania's well known philosopher and journalist Arvidas Juozaitis said this in an interview for "TIESA" daily paper.

In comparing the situation which had taken shape in Lithuania at that time with that in Estonia, where, in his words, the politicians "did everything possible to avoid bloodshed of the innocent people," Mr Juozaitis concludes that "many political figures in Lithuania did not fulfil their duty".

Arvidas Juozaitis was one of the most active founders of the Sajudis movement. Later on, he, however, disassociated himself from this movement, for the reason that "the rightist leaders were purposefully building up passions in January, they purposefully drove Kazimiera Prunskiene into the corner, and they purposefully aggravated the situation in Lithuania".

Mr Juozaitis is convinced that the rightist leaders "were sure that as soon as the events get settled, they would win tenfold, claiming they saved the country".

Warrants Issued

*OW1301200093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Warrants for the arrest of the persons responsible for the January events in Vilnius have been issued, Lithuania's Attorney General Arturas Paulauskas said in an interview for "TIESA" daily paper.

In the words of the Attorney General, the problem lies in the fact that all the persons who bear personal responsibility for those events are currently in Russia, rather than in Lithuania. At present, there are no legal grounds for their arrest. The agreement with Moscow on cooperation in the area of jurisdiction has not been ratified by the Russian parliament, Mr Paulauskas said.

In his words, should Lithuania fail to "get hold of the culprits", the court proceedings could be conducted in absentia.

Earlier, the Lithuanian Attorney's General Office indicated that the responsibility of the former principals of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party, Mikolas Burokiavicius and Algimantas Naudziunas, has been proven.

On the night of January 13, 1991, in Vilnius, 14 persons were killed and over a hundred wounded as a result of clashes between demonstrators and Soviet troops.

Gorbachev's 'Approval' Noted

*OW1301134693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1116
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The case of the tragic events in Vilnius in January 1991 has much evidence suggesting that the anti-Lithuanian action was carried out with the silent approval of the USSR's former president Mikhail Gorbachev. Such a conclusion was made by Juozas Gaudutis, the chief procurator of the Lithuanian Procurator-General's Office's Investigation Department, during his interview with the newspaper "Respublika." Gaudutis noted that despite the promise to give evidence, Gorbachev has been avoiding this for two years.

Lithuania's ex-charge d'affaires in Moscow, Egidius Bickauskas, told the newspaper "Lietuvos Rytas" about his futile attempts to get in touch with Gorbachev by telephone during that tragic night. "I'm convinced," he said, "that during that night Gorbachev was hardly fast asleep. He was regularly informed of what was going on in Lithuania and just did not want to talk with me," he said.

Vilnius Rally Marks Anniversary

*OW1301212593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1716
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The functions marking the Day of Freedom Fighters, the second anniversary of the tragic events of January 13, 1991, in Vilnius, are continuing in Lithuania.

Several thousand people gathered at the Lithuanian parliament building in a rally to mark the date.

The rally, which is dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in January, 1991, vividly demonstrated the ongoing confrontation between the political forces in the republic. Speaking at the rally were only members and supporters of the opposition-oriented parties and organizations.

Many speakers were vocal about pending threat to the freedom of expression in the republic, averring that Lithuania is on the "edge of the grave", in which its independence can be buried.

The Seimas opposition leader, Vytautas Landsbergis, alleged that "Russia is now threatening to stop the pullout of its troops". In his words, Russia is doing this, counting on certain concessions on the part of Lithuania's new powers-that-be. If any concessions were made, he said, "we will have to look back and remind them of our commitments".

Procurator General on NEW YORK TIMES Article

*OW1301134193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1114
GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's Procurator-General's Office accused the newspaper "New York Times" of distorting facts in a series of articles, which highlighted the rehabilitation of the victims of political reprisals in the Soviet Union.

With reference to the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a public organization involved in the search for criminals and is concerned with the genocide of Jews, the latest article on this subject, written by Stephen Kinzer and published on December 25, 1992, accused the Lithuanian authorities of a number of violations. For instance, it quotes Efraim Zuroff, the director of this center's Israeli branch, as saying that his organization has the names of thousands of Lithuanians who took part in the genocide of Jews, particularly during the years of Nazi occupation.

Vidmantas Vaicekaskas, the chief procurator of the Special Investigation Department, stated during a press conference on Tuesday [12 January] that the list of the Wiesenthal Center consisted of only 800 names. He also

said that just one out of every 13 individuals on this list has been rehabilitated mistakenly.

Vaicekauskas also refuted other parts of the article, including the one alleging that the Wiesenthal Center sent an official request to the Lithuanian Procurator-General's Office for the list of the 50,000 rehabilitated citizens and for setting up a joint commission for investigating individual rehabilitation cases. He sharply criticized the idea of establishing a joint commission of this kind, saying that it would be an instance of interference in Lithuania's internal affairs.

The procurator's statement goes against the reports saying that Algirdas Brazauskas and, earlier, Vytautas Landsbergis, supported the idea of setting up such a commission. In January a delegation consisting of representatives of the Wiesenthal Center and members of the Israeli parliament are expected to arrive in Lithuania to discuss this problem.

In conclusion, Vaicekauskas said that "if pressure is put on us any further, we shall publish the names of two Israeli citizens who have committed crimes against the Lithuanian people."

Half of Population Supports Brazauskas Candidacy

*OW1201211193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2007
GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's acting president, Algirdas Brazauskas, and Lithuanian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in the United States, Stasys Lozoraitis, have the biggest chances of winning the presidential elections and becoming president of the Lithuanian Republic. This conclusion was made by the Baltic Center for Public Opinion Studies on the basis of a survey it conducted in Vilnius last week.

Nearly 50% of the residents of Vilnius claim they will cast their ballots for the leader of the Democratic Party of Labor of Lithuania which had the upper hand at the elections to the republic's Seimas. The share of respondents giving preference to this politician has remained unchanged in the last three weeks.

The second place, according to the survey outcome, belongs to Lithuanian diplomat Stasys Lozoraitis. 27% of the residents in the Lithuanian capital say they will vote for him. The share of this candidate's supporters has risen by 7% in the same three weeks. Ms Rasas Alisaikiene, director of Baltic Center for Public Opinion Studies, is attributing this rise to the fact that

Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Lithuanian opposition, announced his refusal to take part in the presidential elections campaign.

According to the survey results, the other contenders to the presidential office in the republic enjoy the support of only 1-2% of the respondents in Vilnius.

Landowners' Union Supports Brazauskas Candidacy

*OW1201190893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1629
GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian Landowners' Union has circulated a statement in support of Algirdas Brazauskas during the presidential election campaign. The Union is calling on all the farmers to sign for him now, and vote for him on January 14. Mr Brazauskas' popularity rating is known to be very high among the Lithuanian farmers.

During the elections to the Seimas, the Landowners' Union, chaired by Seimas member Virmantas Velikonis, will come in the same election list with the Democratic Party of Labor of Lithuania.

The Seimas opposition leaders, however, recently used to refer to the Landowners' Union as "a union of kolkhoz ex-chairmen".

Lozoraitis on Plans if Elected President

*WS1201130993 Tallinn BNS in English 2245 GMT 11
Jan 93*

[Text] Vilnius, 11 January 1993 (BNS)—Stasys Lozoraitis, ambassador of Lithuania to the US, said he has no intention to dissolve the Seimas if elected President of Lithuania. According to reports of foreign radio stations, Lozoraitis said at a press conference in Rome that he wishes to become a guarantee of a correct democracy process, but not an author of some political manipulations.

Although Lozoraitis' opponents from the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party, including its leader Algirdas Brazauskas, respect the experience and the personality of the Ambassador, they say that in case he is elected President, the top of the state authority pyramid will become unnatural and Lozoraitis will most probably dissolve the Seimas. This would mean new parliamentary elections in Lithuania.

According to radio reports, Lozoraitis is satisfied with the support provided by various Lithuanian parties and movements, however he noted that they have not eliminated the cause of their disagreements.

68-year-old Lozoraitis nominated himself for President after numerous consultations with Lithuanian political forces the majority of which support him in the presidential race.

Stasys Lozoraitis, who is currently abroad, will return to Lithuania this week to take part in the commemoration of the January 13, 1991 tragic events and will begin his election campaign.